



# NEWSLINK

The Magazine of the Church of Ireland United Dioceses of Limerick, Killaloe & Ardfert

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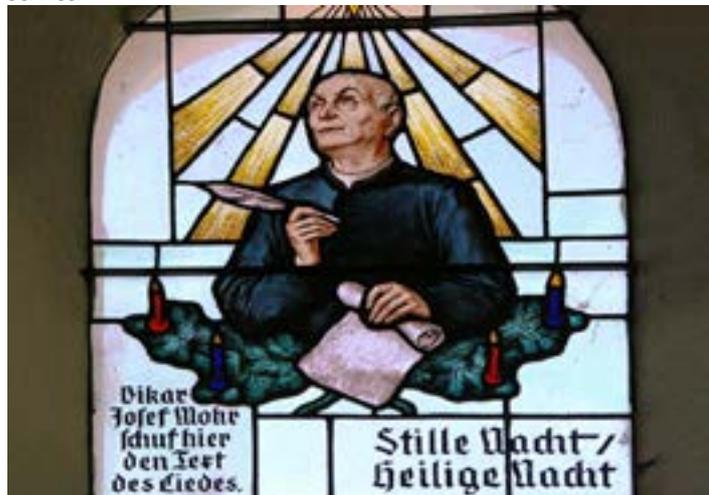
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*The Adoration of the Magi, painted by Albrecht Dürer in 1504 (Uffizi Gallery, Florence)*

# Silent Night

200 years ago this Christmas Eve a parish priest in Oberndorf near Salzburg in Austria and his organist wrote a new carol for the midnight mass. The priest, Fr Joseph Mohr, provided the words in a poem he had recently written. The organist was Franz Xavier Gruber who created a tune of haunting beauty. The carol, Stille Nacht, was duly sung at the service.



Stained glass window in the Silent Night Chapel at Oberndorf, near Salzburg

We don't know what the congregation thought of it, though I bet someone said, 'I can't stand all these new tunes!' But the simple words and wistful melody were to become one of the world's favourite carols, translated into hundreds of languages, 'Silent Night' as we know it. One Christmas Day during the First World War, British troops heard the sound of German soldiers singing Stille Nacht. They responded with

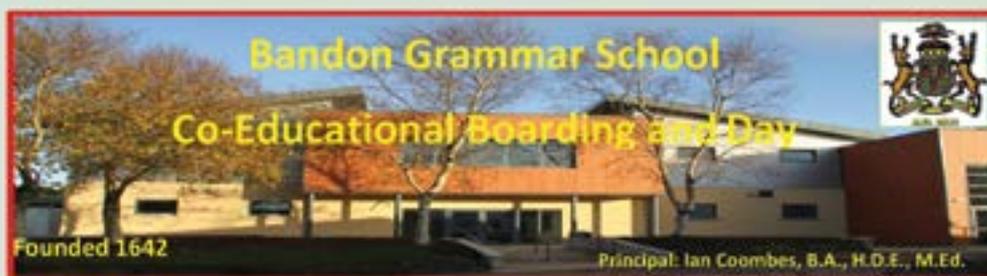
Silent Night, and the sacred words echoed across the blood-stained no-man's-land. It is a carol that breathes peace, quite unlike the traditional ones that stir us to action – 'O come all ye faithful', 'Hark the herald angels sing'. This German song is about the infinite peace of nativity – Mary pondering in her heart all that was happening and the shepherds returning to their fields. The birth of this royal baby went largely unnoticed. There were no crowds, no cheering, no processions. But for two centuries people have sung this precious song of peace to recall that silent and holy night.

Silent night, holy night,  
all is calm, all is bright  
round yon Virgin Mother and Child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace!

Silent night, holy night,  
shepherds quake at the sight,  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ the Saviour is born!  
Christ the Saviour is born!

Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from thy holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth!

*Joseph Mohr (1792-1848), translated J F Young (1820-85)*



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# Bishop Kenneth writes - Preparing for Christmas

Some people begin to buy Christmas presents during the summer and while I can admire their organisation, I couldn't even attempt to plan that far ahead. I have to get into the Christmas mood before I can even think of presents and all the other preparations that have to be made.

We still engage in a long process of preparing for Christmas. First there is cooking the Christmas pudding, traditionally begun on "Stir up Sunday" (the Sunday before Advent Sunday), which always creeps up as a surprise to most of us. There is the Christmas card list and the presents list. Then ordering the turkey and ham, and buying the Christmas tree.

These and many more steps mark our preparation for celebrating Christmas. Most children today have an Advent Calendar with little cardboard windows for each day, counting down the days to the festival, and the inevitable question "how many sleeps to Santa Claus?"

The season of Advent is the church's way of counting down to Christmas and it has traditions of its own. Some cathedrals and churches have Advent Carol Services, very different in tone from Christmas Carols. Most churches today have an Advent wreath, as each Sunday we light another candle to commemorate the heroes of our faith who prepared humanity for the birth of the Saviour.

During Advent we follow the way God prepared for the birth of His Son. We listen to the announcement of the Birth of John the Baptist,

a cousin of Jesus, and the forerunner. We hear of the announcement to Mary that she was to have a baby, and the way she responded with a positive "yes". We read of the calling of Joseph to be the father figure in the life of Jesus. We learn of the choice of Bethlehem to be the unlikely place, far from home, for this birth to happen.



So the month of December and the season of Advent coincide to bring us a season of preparation both in church and in the wider community – a time to welcome a Saviour, and a time to relax and celebrate family and friends.

Advent is a special season in the church – we should take time to note how it evolves week by week, as we prepare for the celebration of the birth of a Saviour in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago.

Wishing you a blessed Advent, and a happy and holy Christmas.  
+ Kenneth

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## Diocesan Calendar

To place an entry please email the Editor at [joc\\_sanders@iol.ie](mailto:joc_sanders@iol.ie). Those organising events of wide diocesan interest are urged to do so as early as possible so that others may plan around them.

**Sun 2nd December, 7pm** Advent Procession, St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick City

**Mon 3rd December, 7pm** Diocesan Guild of Readers AGM, Woodlands House Hotel, Adare

**Wed 12th – Sun 16th December** Nenagh Christmas Tree Festival, St Mary's Church, Nenagh

**Sun 16th December, 8pm** Carols for the City, St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick City

**Sat 29th December** UDYC Mega Christmas Day Trip to Dublin (10+)

**Sun 20th January, 7pm** Epiphany Carol Service, St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick City

**Wed 27th February, 8pm** DCfM Mission Evening: Work of the Peter McVerry Trust (Speaker: Fr Peter McVerry). Woodlands House Hotel, Adare

**Thu 28th February** Finance Committee, followed by Diocesan Council

See also the diocesan website [www.limerick.anglican.org/calendar](http://www.limerick.anglican.org/calendar).

## Appointments

Bishop Kenneth Kearon has announced the following appointments:

- Revd Terry Mitchell as Warden of Readers for Killaloe Diocese, in succession to Archdeacon Wayne Carney, who continues to serve as Diocesan Director of Ordinands. Canon Liz Beasley is Warden of Readers for Limerick Diocese.
- Mr Stephen Fletcher, Diocesan Lay Reader, as Radio Officer for Clare FM in succession to Canon Bob Hanna who has retired.



## Past Students' Association of The Church of Ireland College of Education

Annual conference, Hotel Kilkenny, 8th–10th March 2019.  
For all current and past students of CIC DCU, C.I.C.E and C.I.T.C.

The conference is a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and learn some new things to take back to the classroom! It also incorporates the 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 & 40 year reunions.

For further information please contact [psacice@gmail.com](mailto:psacice@gmail.com) or connect with us on Facebook: PastStudents Cice



# Editorial

## Newslink subscriptions increased

I am sorry to break the bad news – Newslink subscriptions will go up by €5 per annum for 2019. Advertising rates will be unchanged, since we need to encourage more advertising to avoid further increases in the future. The new rates are at bottom right of this page. They are designed to keep expected income and expenditure in rough balance, not to make a surplus.

In my editorial this time last year, I warned that subscriptions would have to increase unless we got more annual advertising (Newslink continues to have less than many other diocesan magazines). The advertising I had hoped for has not materialised. Hence the need to raise subscriptions.

The Newslink team of volunteers have neither the resources nor the local knowledge to be able to target potential advertisers. We need the help of Rectors and Select Vestries on the ground to point us in the direction of businesses likely to advertise – we will follow up any leads they give us. If each group or union of parishes can persuade one or more local businesses to place a quarter page advertisement, Newslink will be financially secure. So once again I challenge Rectors and Select Vestries to take the initiative to drum up more local advertising.

I thank you all – subscribers, advertisers and contributors – for your continuing support of Newslink. But special thanks are due to our pew distributors – it is a difficult task asking others for money, and we should all help them by paying promptly when asked. Some Select Vestries help them by writing a cheque for the promised number of subscriptions for later reimbursement, so that their distributor does not have to write a personal cheque – others might like to do the same.

A very happy and blessed Advent, Christmas and Epiphany to you all from the Newslink team.

## Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise



An tUrr Tony Murphy, leis an Urr Phyllis Jones (Daingean Uí Chúis) agus an tUrr Jim Stephens ag Seirbhís Mhachnaimh, eagraithe ag Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise ag Oireachtas na Samhna, Cill Airne, 5 Samhain

Rev Tony Murphy with Rev Phyllis Jones, Dingle, and Rev Jim Stephens, Tralee, at the Reflective Service organised by Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise at Oireachtas na Samhna in Killarney

# Newslink

Newslink is the diocesan magazine for the United Diocese of Limerick, Killaloe & Ardfert, which also includes the historic dioceses of Aghadoe, Clonfert, Emly, Kilfenora and Kilmacduagh. For further information about the United Dioceses see the diocesan web site: [www.limerick.anglican.org](http://www.limerick.anglican.org).

Newslink also covers Methodist Midlands and Southern District Circuits within the boundaries of the Church of Ireland Diocese.

### Editor

In addition to news from parishes, schools and diocesan organisations, the Editor is delighted to receive articles and letters for publication, as well as suggestions as to how Newslink may be improved.

Please note: names and addresses of contributors must be given, and all letters printed will include name and address unless otherwise agreed with the Editor. All material dealing with parish/circuit matters must first be cleared with the Minister concerned.

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Newslink is printed by Davis Printers, Unit 6, Crossagala Enterprise Centre, Ballysimon Rd, Limerick

### Deadlines

There will be no issue for January 2019. The next issue will be for February 2019, published for Sunday 3rd February.

**All material must reach the Editor by Friday 18th January 2019 before 6.00pm, by email only, unless otherwise agreed.**

Late material cannot be guaranteed insertion.

### NEWSLINK ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR 2019

(INCREASED by €5 from 2018, for 10 issues February – December, part year pro-rata)

Delivered to pew in bulk €42

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Collected from printer in bulk €35

(contact: Joc Sanders, Turravagaun, Dromineer, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary. Mobile: 087 699 6775. Email [joc\\_sanders@iol.ie](mailto:joc_sanders@iol.ie))

### NEWSLINK ADVERTISING RATES FOR 2019

(UNCHANGED from 2018, full page is A4 portrait, half page A5 landscape etc)

	Rate per annum (Euro) (payable in advance)		Rate per single issue (Euro)	
	10 x Colour	10 x B&W	Colour	B&W
Full Page	1193	1069	154	143
Half Page	596	534	77	71
Quarter Page	299	268	39	36
Eighth Page	149	133	19	18

# Prayer Corner

## Partners in Prayer

### December 2018

Each Sunday in December

Church of Ireland: For our United Dioceses of Limerick & Killaloe and Kenneth Kearon our Bishop.

#### 2nd December, 1st Sunday of Advent, Violet

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Reformed Episcopal Church of Spain and Rt Revd Carlos López-Lozano, Bishop of the Spanish Reformed Episcopal Church.

Diocese: As we prepare to celebrate the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ, we proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom, and pray for God's blessing on our endeavours to teach, baptise and nurture new believers.

#### 9th December, 2nd Sunday of Advent, Violet

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church in the Falkland Islands and Rt Revd Timothy Thornton, Bishop to the Forces and Bishop to the Falkland Islands.

Diocese: We proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom, and pray for God's blessing on our endeavours to respond to human need by loving service.

#### 16th December, 3rd Sunday of Advent, Violet

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Kivu, Rwanda and Rt Revd Augustin Ahimana, Bishop of Kivu.

Diocese: We proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom, and pray for God's blessing on our endeavours to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind, and to pursue peace and reconciliation.

#### 23rd December, 4th Sunday of Advent, Violet

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Kubwa, Abuja, Nigeria and Rt Revd Duke Akamisoko, Bishop of Kubwa.

Diocese: We proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom, and pray for God's blessing on our endeavours to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

#### 25th December, Christmas Day, White or Gold

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Kumi, Uganda and Rt Revd Edison Irigei, Bishop of Kumi.

Diocese: We pray for those for whom the joy of Christmas is marred by bereavement, loneliness, poverty and homelessness.

#### 30th December, 1st Sunday of Christmas, White or Gold

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Kyushu, Japan and Rt Revd Luke Ken-ichi Muto, Bishop of Kyushu.

Diocese: We pray for those travelling to visit family and friends over this holiday season, that they may arrive safely and return refreshed.

## January 2019

Each Sunday in January

Church of Ireland: The Diocese of Armagh and Archbishop Richard Clarke.

#### 6th January, The Epiphany, White

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, Most Revd Philip Richardson - Bishop of

Taranaki and Primate, Most Revd Don Tamihere - Pihopa o Aotearoa and Primate, and Most Revd Fereimi Cama - Bishop of Polynesia and Primate.

Diocese: We give thanks for the revelation of God incarnate in Jesus Christ and we pray that we may freely and wholeheartedly place ourselves at God's pleasure and disposal throughout 2019.

#### 13th January, 1st Sunday after Epiphany: The Baptism of Christ, White

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Australia and Most Revd Philip Leslie Freier, Archbishop of Melbourne & Primate of Australia.

Diocese: We pray for the Mothers' Union in our dioceses, for the diocesan officers including president Lucy Kavanagh, and the branches in Adare, Aghancon Shinrone & Kinnity, Ballinasloe, Banagher & Eyrecourt, Birr, Borrisokane & Cloughjordan, Kilcornan & Rathkeale, Limerick City, Roscrea and Kenmare.

#### 20th January, 2nd Sunday after Epiphany, White

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The united Church of Bangladesh And Most Revd Paul Shishir Sarker, Moderator of the Church of Bangladesh & Bishop of Dhaka.

Diocese: In this week of prayer for Christian Unity, we pray that Christians of all traditions in our communities may be as one, as Father, Son and Holy Spirit are one.

#### 27th January, 3rd Sunday after Epiphany, White

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil and Most Revd Naudal Alves Gomes, Primate of Brazil & Bishop of Curitiba.

Diocese: We pray for the Girls' Friendly Society in our dioceses, for the diocesan officers including president Rose Langley, and the branches in Borrisokane & Cloughjordan, Birr, Nenagh, and Roscrea.

#### 3rd February, 4th Sunday after Epiphany, White

Church of Ireland: The Diocese of Clogher and Bishop John McDowell.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Burundi and Most Revd Martin Blaise Nyaboho, Archbishop of Burundi & Bishop of Makamba.

Diocese: The Boys' Brigade in our dioceses and the companies and leaders in Nenagh, Roscrea and Tralee.

## A Christmas prayer

Loving God, help us remember the birth of Jesus,  
that we may share in the song of the angels,  
the gladness of the shepherds,  
and the worship of the wise men.



Close the door of hate  
and open the door of love all over the world.  
Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.  
Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings,  
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children,  
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,  
forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

*Robert Louis Stevenson, 1850-1894  
novelist, poet, essayist, musician & travel writer*

## A circle prayer

Imagine throwing a pebble into the centre of a pond, and the circles of ripples that move out from the centre.



We pray firstly for those closest to us, our immediate family and closest friends – for their health, needs, joys and fears.

(Silent prayer)

God of creation, God of Salvation

Hear the prayers of our hearts

We pray for our extended family and friends who we might not see each week – for their love and concern, for their wellbeing.

(Silent prayer)

God of creation, God of Salvation

Hear the prayers of our hearts

As the ripples reach out toward the land we pray for those who we only have contact with annually or less – for a blessing this Advent-time.

(Silent prayer)

God of creation, God of Salvation

Hear the prayers of our hearts

And as the ripples reach their furthest point we pray for this world and its people – for the needs of this week and the future.

(Silent prayer)

God of creation, God of Salvation

Who speaks to us through thunder and whisper

Who loves us as if there were but one of us to love

Hear the prayers of our hearts

# The Five Marks of Mission – 5: “Treasure”

By Archdeacon Wayne Carney, Chairperson of the Diocesan Council for Mission

We conclude our examination of the Five Marks of Mission this month by looking at the fifth and final Mark, which is “Treasure – To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.”

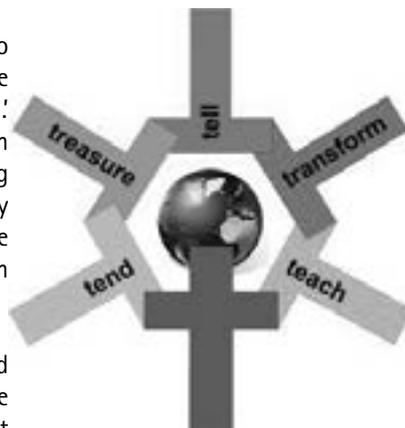
“Oh, no! More about the environment!” We hear so much about it these days, it is easy to tune out. And even if we are concerned about all of this (and I think most of us are), we are likely to feel that we can’t do much about it ourselves. But it’s with individuals, parishes, communities that it all starts. Let’s look at what the Fifth Mark actually says.

The first point is that we’re called to strive – to do our best. To take it seriously. What are we to strive to do? ‘To safeguard the integrity of creation.’ Notice that word ‘integrity’. Our God-given creation, this world we live on, is one – everything is interconnected. Harming one element of it, by contributing to climate change, or polluting the ocean with plastic, has an effect on plants, on animals, and ultimately on humanity.

The rest of the phrase calls upon us to ‘sustain and renew the life of the earth’. Sustain – that’s the part of environmental awareness that we’re most familiar with. To keep things from getting worse. To cut down on CO2 emissions, keep harmful chemicals out of the food chain, use less non-renewable energy and resources, prevent the extinction of endangered species. There’s just one problem with that: things are already pretty bad. The polar ice caps are melting, the weather is getting worse, and animal and plant species are disappearing at an alarming rate. So that brings us to the second point: to renew the life of the earth – to make things better. That is a wonderfully positive statement – some might say hopelessly optimistic. But Christians are called to be hopefully optimistic, with the Christian

understanding of the word ‘hope’, as in the ‘sure and certain hope of eternal life’, a familiar and Biblically-based phrase from the Book of Common Prayer. With God all things are possible, as Jesus reminded us in Matthew 19:26. And Jesus promises us a renewal of ourselves, our relationships with each other, and our relationship with Creation, in Revelation 21:5: “Behold, I am making all things new”.

That doesn’t mean that as Christians we can just sit around, waiting for Jesus to fix things. We are called to set an example for this troubled world, in rescuing the environment as in so many other things. First of all, we have to take the problem seriously – we see the evidence all around us in changing weather patterns which are having an impact on our lives, and even more on the lives of millions of others around the world. Secondly, we have to take action ourselves, and not wait for governments to legislate us into being environmentally aware. And thirdly, we have to make sure that other people – in the Church and in our communities – understand that all of this is vital to our future, and that of our children and grandchildren.



What does all of this have to do with mission?

Well, if we destroy this wonderful world which God has given us, it won’t matter much about anything else. We have that ‘sure and certain hope of eternal life’, but we also have a responsibility to make sure that in this life we and everyone else can avail of the food and water and other resources that God has provided. We are not just here to use those resources – we are called to treasure them.

‘Tell’, ‘Teach’, ‘Tend’, ‘Transform’, ‘Treasure’ – may God give us guidance and courage to make these Marks of Mission our own, and to use them to help to build the Kingdom of God.

# A View from the Pew by Salters Sterling

## – Encountering the Traveller Community



Beginning with where I finished last time, and restating the issue – What will the Church of the future look like? – I nail my colours firmly to the Franciscan mast that the Church of the future will be the Church that lives in support of the poor, the marginalised, the powerless ones in whatever society the Church finds itself.

Pope Francis has done us all a great service in stating that vision bluntly. Hopefully it means that the largest,

numerically speaking, Christian Community will gear itself up for a life of faith that is about a vision of such service. Some of the Catholic Community have such a history of ministry already as do certain sectors of the Catholic and Reformed Communities of which the Church of Ireland is a large portion. But across the board the service of the poor is sectoral and not central.

I illustrate this by reference to the silence with which the Churches received the statements about the Travelling Community in Ireland by Peter Casey, a candidate in the recent presidential election. I am not surprised by that silence because, as the voting illustrated, we, the Settled Community, have significant ambivalence about, if not antipathy towards, Travellers even though very few of us have any real knowledge of them either as individuals, as families or as a small minority component within the historic population of Ireland. I have been associated with the Travelling Community in our United Diocese since 1969 and I am still learning much about them and the more I learn the more respectful I become of them. I hope by sharing what I have learned I can help others to understand why there is a central role for the Church, our Church, in seeing support of and for the Travelling Community as a wholesome part of the work of the Body of Christ in our time. Space requires that this theme is spread over a number of issues of Newslink.

Advent isn't at all a bad time to start this sharing. The Christmas story contains a reference to Joseph and Mary with Jesus taking to the road as a way of protecting Jesus against the evil intentions of Herod. The roots of the Traveller Community in Ireland are not dissimilar as we will see. But first let me tell you how I came to meet up with the Travellers around Birr.

When I was appointed Warden of Gurteen Agricultural College in 1969, some of my duties had been traditionally undertaken by a Matron. When the cleaning staff heard that they were going to be supervised by a man they downed tools, so I arrived to face a College without a staff to clean the place. No amount of negotiations would persuade the cleaning staff to return to work and in desperation I consulted the Chairperson of the Board of Governors. Whitten Haslam introduced me to a family of Itinerants (as they were then called), one of whom he, himself, was employing. They were a family of Doyles living in trailers along the walls of the Military Barracks at Crinkle. A conversation with the grandmother, a Mrs. O'Donoghue, secured me three, possibly four, staff who would come and clean at the College on three conditions. That I would pick them up and leave them home on a daily basis; that the "young gentlemen at the College would not lay a hand on them"; that I would hand over their weekly pay packets to herself. I wasn't in a position to argue about

the terms, so I agreed. Thus, Mary Doyle and her sisters became part of the domestic staff of Gurteen.

They were a delight to employ as Whitten Haslam had assured me they would be. They were totally focussed on the job. Their spit, polish and concern for hygiene were extraordinarily thorough. Their time keeping was excellent. Their attention to detail was a joy to witness and ensured that they moved into kitchen work as a place became available. And in the kitchen a cloth was never out of their hands to clean counters and tiles and equipment. Unasked they kept themselves busy. As an introduction to a different culture I couldn't have asked for better exemplars.

As I grew to know them, to respect them and accept that they couldn't read or write, except their signature, I realised more fully than ever before the truth of the theological aphorism that we are all made in the Image of God. That truth has been the best guide for living that has ever been given to me, and that Truth is what lies at the very heart of the Christmas Story. The Word has become flesh and dwelt among us and we have beheld His Glory, such Glory as comes from Father to Only Son, full of Grace and Truth. In any dealings I ever had with them, the Doyle sisters and their not very politically correct grandmother, exhibited in large measure those divine virtues of Grace and Truth.

Enjoy a holy, wholesome and peaceful Christmas. More next time.



### For those with guests this Christmas

An hour with your grandchildren can make you feel young again. Anything longer than that, and you start to age quickly. *Gene Perret*

The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment. *Anon*

When we are out of sympathy with the young, then I think our work in this world is over. *George MacDonald*

Age doesn't always bring wisdom. Sometimes age comes alone. *Anon*

Nothing is often a good thing to say. *Will Durant*

Our children await Christmas presents like a politician getting election returns. *Marceline Cox*

Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents for a minute and look around. *Anon*

Perfect love sometimes does not come until the first grandchild. *Welsh proverb*

## Armchair Christmas Quiz

All proceeds going to Christian Aid/Bishop's Appeal for the Indonesian earthquake/tsunami and Yemen disaster funds.

Christian Aid/Bishop's Appeal are charities which provides emergency and long term aid where-ever it is most needed in the world.

Please give generously.

Prizes: €30, €20 & €10

Minimum entry €2

All entries will be eligible for prizes, so please send yours in, completed or not! By Feb 9th 2019

Vy Revd. Denis Sandes,  
Ballyhasty, Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary E53 HX85

Name  
Address

ANSWERS: Weights and measures.  
Example: Fancy knitting stitch; CABLE (a nautical measure)

1. Concrete area behind the house: \_ \_ R \_
2. Hard to figure out this depth: \_ \_ \_ H \_ \_
3. Could be a fish, or a roost: \_ \_ R \_ \_
4. Could it also be used to measure?: \_ \_ \_ R \_

5. Sounds like it's "giving out" \_ \_ G \_ \_ \_
6. Could be filled with oil or beer: \_ \_ \_ R \_ L
7. A wee deoch an dorais! \_ R \_ \_
8. Could spend it without buying anything: \_ \_ N \_ \_
9. Links to measure distance: \_ H \_ \_ \_
10. Cattle used to graze the long: \_ \_ R \_
11. Sounds like the ancient king of Troy: \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ R \_
12. Biblical builders measure for length: \_ \_ B \_ \_
13. Edinburgh has a royal one: \_ \_ L \_
14. Under pressure I stich the pub: \_ \_ \_ B \_ \_
15. Could be cash or a weight: \_ \_ \_ N \_
16. You might order one in the pub: \_ \_ N \_
17. Take an E from a spanish ship: \_ \_ \_ L \_ \_
18. Anglicised Irish Island: \_ N \_ \_
19. 10 rings: \_ \_ \_ I \_ \_ \_
20. Old fashioned wind speed scale: \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ R \_
21. Fishes Drink measure?: \_ \_ L \_
22. At the bottom of your leg: \_ \_ O \_
23. Sounds like a shrub and 12th letter: \_ \_ S \_ \_ \_
24. 4 to a gallon: \_ \_ \_ R \_
25. 16 to a pound: \_ \_ N \_ \_
26. Small rock: \_ \_ \_ N \_

*Please feel free to copy this and pass it among your friends*

## Diocesan Organisations

### Girls Friendly Society

#### DIOCESAN COUNCIL

Council took place on Monday, 22nd October in Nenagh at 7.30pm. The Diocese thanks Nenagh branch for hosting the meeting. At the meeting Diocesan President, Rose Langley, presented Norma Jean Carney, Linda Gill and Michelle Armitage with gifts of gratitude for all their hard work during their 3 year term of office.

Children First Training – by now all Leaders/Helpers/Members of GFS should have completed the Training. If not please contact your Branch Leader urgently as certificates are required in head Office.

Membership Forms – All members (girls and Leaders) are required to complete new membership forms which should be stored safely by Branch Leaders. It is now a requirement that Branch Leaders inform the Diocesan Secretary of all leaders over 18 who have completed their Membership Forms.

Safeguarding trust / Garda Vetting – All leaders are asked to provide details of compliance with both Safe Guarding Trust and Garda Vetting to the Diocesan Secretary.

#### DIOCESAN TRAINING

A special Diocesan training event was held in Birr on Saturday, 10th November. Sylvia Quinn, former Central Council President,

travelled from Longford to share her knowledge of GFS. Leaders from Cloughjordan, Borrisokane, Birr and Nenagh attended. It was a very enjoyable and informative day when everyone shared information and concerns about the mounting paper work required in the voluntary sector. Everyone agreed that the information was of great benefit to them in their branch work. Lunch was provided by all the leaders but coordinated by Birr leaders. Many thanks to Birr Branch and to Betty Delahunt, Diocesan Training Officer, for organising the event. It was a very happy occasion and Sylvia was especially encouraged to see two of our younger leaders attending. All participants received certificates as a record of their attendance at Diocesan Training. Well done to all involved.

All the branches continue to work on their competition crafts and Bible Study.



*Leaders at the GFS Training Day*



*New leaders at the GFS Training Day with Mrs Quinn*

#### BORRISOKANE & CLOUGHJORDAN BRANCH

Aside from the Exploration badge this year the branch has decided to do the GFS. Knowledge and Mission. Girls have made cards and crafts for Christmas which all enjoyed.

Everybody is looking forward to the Branch Christmas party which will be held on Wednesday, 5th December from 3pm - 4.30pm and are especially looking forward to Santa's visit.

Four leaders attended GFS. Diocesan Training in Birr on Saturday, 10th November. The Mini-Market will begin after Christmas with proceeds going to G.F.S. Mission and GFS World Project.

The branch greatly appreciates the grant received from Tipperary ETB. which really supports the work of the branch.

#### UP COMING EVENTS

- Christmas Craft Day, Corbally Church, Roscrea on Saturday, 1st December.
- Girls please bring 5 silk/artificial Christmas flowers, basket and €5
- Please contact Branch Leaders for full details.
- Borrisokane & Cloughjordan Branch Christmas Party on Wednesday, 5th December from 3pm - 4.30pm.
- Diocesan Prizeday & Service 2019 will take place in Roscrea on Saturday, 30th March 2019.

If you wish to contact Killaloe President please email Rose at [killaloeresidentgfs@gmail.com](mailto:killaloeresidentgfs@gmail.com) (note new GFS President Email address)

We wish all our members and their families a peaceful and a happy Christmas and good health and happiness for the year ahead.

## Mothers' Union

All Ireland MU Triennial Thanksgiving Service: In October a wonderful service of thanksgiving was held in Christ Church Cathedral in Dublin. The service was very well represented by MU members from our diocese and our Diocesan Chaplain, Rev Canon Jane Galbraith robed for the service. During the service the dedication was held of the stained glass crafted tree which will be placed in the Mothers' Union Chapel. The tree reminds us of MU rooted in faith and reaching out in service through our Branches and members. The service completed our celebration of 13 Decades of Love and Service in Ireland.

Adare Branch, Kilcornan Branch and Limerick City Branch got together in October in Embury Close, Adare to hold their annual Harvest Supper Fundraiser. As always a really enjoyable evening was had by all and, more importantly, €560 was raised for our Overseas Project work which supports the training of development

workers helping to provide Literacy & Education Programmes, Mother & Baby Programmes and many more. We had a lovely meal prepared by Rosemary Shire followed by a selection of gorgeous deserts provided by members. This was followed by the ever popular raffle, the prizes for which were very generously donated by members. Our huge thanks must go to all who helped in any way for making our fundraiser so successful.

Congratulations must go to Margaret Schutz who was joint winner of the MU writing competition. Margaret wrote a beautiful story which can be read on the website [www.mothersunion.ie](http://www.mothersunion.ie).



*Margaret Schultz winning her prize*

Incoming All Ireland President: Our new All Ireland President is Mrs June Butler. June has been the Diocesan President from Down & Dromore Diocese for the past three years and was also the Assistant Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland. We wish June many blessings as she takes on this challenging role. In January June takes over from Phyllis Grothier who has led Mothers' Union with passion and commitment for the last six years.



*Incoming All Ireland President, June Butler (left) and Phyllis Grouthier going President*

16 Days of Activism Prayer Vigil: Our annual Prayer Vigil was held this year in Richmond Terrace, Limerick. Our speaker was Jess Anglam from Adapt House Women's Refuge who gave us a real insight into the work of Adapt House and the very many challenges that they face on a daily basis. Members brought along very welcome donations of toiletries and clothes for the refuge. Rev Jane then led us in prayer and reflection remembering all those who suffer on a daily basis from this hidden abuse. We ended our Vigil with a lovely supper and a cup of tea and our thanks go to Margaret Schutz and Bev Callendar and all those who helped on the day.



Rev Jane Galbraith, Margaret Schutz & Jess Anglam at 16 Days of Activism Vigil

I would like to thank all our members and Branch Leaders for your work throughout the year and may I wish you all a very peaceful and blessed Christmas.

Lucy Kavanagh, Diocesan President

## United Diocesan Youth Council

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE TRIP TO ROMANIA (See photos on pg 20)

Our International Exchange Trip to Romania took place from Thursday 26th October 2018 to Sunday 4th November 2018. It was a fabulous experience for all of those involved. The ten from our United Diocese were joined for the trip by young people and leaders from Romania and Germany.

The outward overnight trip from Dublin airport was with Blue Air to Baccau Airport. After a long bus journey, the group arrived at accommodation for the 10 days close to the city of Radauti. Radauti is a city in Suceava County, north-eastern Romania. It is situated in the historical region of Bukovina. Just after lunch on Friday, the Romanian group from National College Eudoxiu Hurmuzachi arrived and later in the evening the German group Ev.-luth. Kirchengemeinde Altenwalde in Germany. After a welcomed pizza supper, a number of Icebreaker games and introductory session was held.



Building bridges across the Continent

There were a huge number of highlights during the trip but the following were some of them: numerous games from each of the countries, Irish night, German night, Working with drama group, discussion groups, free time sessions chatting, jigsaw making, guided tour of Radauti, visiting the Romanian Groups school for a tour, presentation & lunch, street markets, visiting the estate for homeless children of the Bogdana Monastery, exploration trip of the

famous monasteries which belong to the UNESCO World Heritage Site, visit to an after schools club, Zip Line, Paint Ball, Visit to a Salt Mine, swimming at a local pool, hiking in the woods with a forester called Filip, horse riding at a stud-farm, visit to the pottery village of Marginea, the historical village, castle and shopping in Suceava, eating out at a restaurant on last evening etc.

The Irish group arrived back safely in Dublin airport on Sunday afternoon tired but very happy having enjoyed a superb experience on this trip in Romania. It is hoped the Romanian and German group will visit Ireland during 2019.

### AUTUMN ADVENTURE WEEKEND

The Adventure did begin! Our Autumn Adventure Weekend 2018 was a splendid opportunity for all those attending secondary school for an action packed weekend of fun, faith and fellowship. It took place from Friday 16th to Sunday 18th November at Lilliput Outdoor Adventure Centre located in Jonathan Swift Park on the shores of Lough Ennell about 10 minutes from the town of Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.

The Worship & Teaching sessions were facilitated by Chloe and Anna from International Justice Mission throughout the weekend. It was particularly brilliant to have live worship music for these sessions. The programme prepared with bible readings, music, 3D audio visual, drama, video clips and spoken words were absolutely superb. The prayer space on Saturday evening was a particular highlight for everyone.

The Outdoor Adventure Activities during the weekend included Bog Run, Kayaking, Climbing Tower, Aeroball, Capture the flag, Sniper, Night Line, Laser Game and Orienteering There was much Open Fire conversations, chat and song with Lots of good food and a little bit of sleep!!! Everyone departed for home on Sunday evening tired but happy having had a great weekend.

### FUTURE EVENTS

#### Mega Christmas Day Trip to Dublin

Our Mega Christmas Day trip to Dublin will take place on Saturday 29th December 2018. Last year 67 joined us for this exciting trip which was great. This event is open to all those of 10 plus years and upwards. An action packed day will include Jumpzone Indoor Trampoline Park @ Sandymore, Funderland @ R.D.S. (wristband for unlimited attractions included again this year), I-SKATE on Ice @ RDS, Fast Food @ Mc Donald's Kylemore, Karting @ Kylemore Karting. There will also be return transport from Limerick, Birdhill, Nenagh, Moneygall, Roscrea & Portlaoise. The cost for transport, activities, food (food not included on outward and return trips) is €60 or €50 each if two or more from same family attending or if joining both day trips. Closing date for receipt of bookings is Thursday 20th December 2018.

#### National Youth Forum

This event will be an opportunity for all 15-18 year-olds to come together with delegates from each of the 12 dioceses of Church of Ireland. It is hoped that each Diocese will have six delegates and two adult leaders. The event will take place at City North Hotel in Julianstown from Friday evening 18th to Saturday evening 19th January 2019. If you or you know of any suitable delegate, please do not hesitate to contact Edward @ 087/2907553 as soon as possible please.

For more information on any of our events or activities, please contact Edward (087) 2907553 or myself. Email: [udyc@limerick.anglican.org](mailto:udyc@limerick.anglican.org) or our UDYC Facebook page.

Until next month, Grace, Mobile: 087 6776279

# Diocesan Council for Mission

## MISSION SUNDAY 2018

The Treasurer would like to receive all donations toward this year's project, the Peter McVerry Trust, by 14th December if at all possible.

## 2019 MISSION EVENING PROGRAMME

The committee of the Diocesan Council for Mission has set provisional dates (details to be confirmed) for the 2019 Mission Evening programme as follows:

- Wed 27th February, 8pm, Woodlands House Hotel, Adare: Fr Peter McVerry to speak on the work of the Peter McVerry Trust, with particular reference to Limerick City and County (confirmed).
- Wed 1st May, 8pm, Church Hall, Moneygall, Co Tipperary: Youth Mission Experience: - some young people from the Diocese tell of their mission experience, working and travelling abroad in the past year.
- Wed 25th September, 8pm, Woodlands House Hotel, Adare: Presentation on the Mission Sunday Project for 2019.

The next meeting of the Council for Mission committee is scheduled for Wed 16th January at 8 pm in the Woodlands House Hotel, Adare.

We wish all our supporters a Happy Christmas and a peaceful new year in 2019.

## Continuing Ministerial Education

### JANUARY WORKSHOP ON CELTIC SPIRITUALITY

The continuing education programme for all clergy and readers in the diocese resumes in January, with workshops on Celtic Spirituality in the Rectory, Askeaton, Co Limerick, on Monday 14 January 2019. These workshops are being facilitated by the Rev Ann-Marie Stuart and the Revd Isabel Keegan.

The February programme, on Monday 11 February, looks at the practice of the Jesus Prayer and using icons in prayer.

These programmes are offered in two sessions: from 11 am to 3.30 for day-time participants, and from 7 pm to 9.30 pm for people in ministry who are also in secular ministry.

Tea/coffee/biscuits are provided, but participants are asked to bring sandwiches.

In November, the Revd Rod Smyth of Nenagh introduced a workshop on the choice of hymns, canticles and music, which is often a difficult task for clergy and readers alike.

Rod tackled the thorny problems faced by people who have difficulty in selecting hymns for Sundays, and offered advice about appropriate hymns for Advent, as well as Baptisms, weddings and funerals.

Meanwhile, Canon Patrick Comerford publishes online resources every Monday morning that are suitable for clergy and readers planning services the following Sunday. These are available online at: <https://cmelimerick.blogspot.com/>

# SCHOOL NEWS

## St. Nicholas' National School, Adare

The school celebrated Book Week just before mid-term break with visits to Adare Library, lots of reading and book reports and a wonderful Dress Up Day. Everyone got involved in this special day, pupils, teachers and SNAs and there was great excitement as we all gathered in the senior classroom to hear about each book character. There was a mixture of costumes and home-made outfits and everyone shared a little of their character with the rest of the school. Well done to all involved.



*Junior Infants Dress up Day*



*5th class Dress Up Day*

Science was also celebrated in school this term with a visit from Geoff Hunt. This year we concentrated on the trees in the school and church grounds and discovered that we have twelve different species. We brought nature into each classroom by taking leaf and seed samples from all the trees and created classroom posters. We now hope to create name labels for all the trees in the school grounds, a nice project for Art class!

Adare Men's Shed has kindly offered to make bird tables for the school and they will also paint our picnic and garden seats.

The school hosted an internet safety and cyberbullying workshop for our senior pupils in November and that evening we organised a parent evening on the same topic.

Pupils in Mrs Hales' and Mrs Keane's classrooms are busy practising their soccer skills under the guidance of Barbara Bermingham.

Pupils in 3rd and 4th classes will take place in a futsal tournament in December. The senior pupils have begun training for spikeball in preparation for competitions in January.

As we prepare for the Christmas season the pupils have begun to rehearse their Christmas plays and the Christmas song books have been dusted off once again! It is such an exciting time in school as we prepare for this special time of the year. This year we will take part in some carol-singing at the Crescent Shopping Centre, the Live Crib in Adare and the carol service in St. Nicholas' Church. The school Christmas party and concert take place on the 19th December. It will be a busy month!

We wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas.

## St. Mary's National School, Nenagh

Winter uses all the blues there are.  
One shade of blue for water, one for ice.  
Another blue for shadows over snow"  
- "Blue Winter" by Robert Francis

It's hard to believe that Hallowe'en has come and gone. Christmas and the close of the year are almost upon us.

We are busy at school with lessons, Christmas pageant preparations and some enjoyable activities to complement our regular classes. Speech and Drama classes take place with Ms Carmel McLoughlin for four weeks this month. French and Music classes continue with Ms Healy-Bernard and Mrs Smyth.

On 13th November pupils from 2nd to 6th were treated to a Science Workshop in Nenagh Library. Dr Ken gave a Maths and Physics presentation entitled "It doesn't add up". We are grateful to Nenagh Library for organising fantastic events every year for the schools in and around our town.

Parent-teacher conferences took place on 13th and 14th of November, followed by the Scholastic Book Fair from 15th to 21st November.

So, a busy month was had by all, with learning experiences across many disciplines.

From mens sana to corpus sana, vaccinations for Junior Infants will have taken place at the end of November in the Croft Hall. We look forward to Zumba coaching in the New Year.

Top Secret plans are germinating to create a spectacular entry for this year's Parish Christmas Tree Festival. Entries may be submitted from 8th December.

We tread the boards this year on 14th December with two shows. The first offering, from Junior and Senior Infants, will be an exciting retelling of the old favourite, Cinderella. Our pupils from 1st class upwards will dazzle us with a musical adaptation of A Christmas Carol called "Bah Humbug". We anticipate that pupils, parents and grandparents will greatly enjoy the drama, music and atmosphere on the day.

Finally, a reminder for parents and guardians of prospective pupils, please drop by the school to collect "Notification of Intent to Apply" form which is available now.

Sin é an nuacht! A heartfelt and warm wish to all of our community for a peaceful, happy Christmas. Beannachtaí na Féile 's Nollaig Shona daoibh go léir, a chairde.

From all of us at St Mary's No 2 National School.

## St. Michael's National School, Limerick

As is traditional in our school, we go on field trips in the autumn term. Fifth and Sixth Classes headed off to the UL Activity Centre on Lough Derg for an action-packed few hours of water activities. These included kayaking, giant paddle-boarding and the much-anticipated jump off the pier into the lake! These activities encourage teamwork and co-operation and for many, they are trying a water activity for the first time.



*Giant paddle-boarding*

Third and Fourth Classes enjoyed a wonderful day in the Burren for their School Tour on October 2nd. After arriving at the Birds of Prey Centre near Aillwee Cave, they enjoyed a woodland walk, looking at the aviary and of course visited the shop. There was a superb flying display by a falcon, an eagle and a barn owl, and the children learned many fascinating facts about these birds and other endangered species, during the display. A short journey took us to Caherconnell Fort which was explored with interest, before watching a demonstration of sheepdogs herding sheep. The farmer explained to the children how the dogs are trained by whistle. Our last call was to Poul nabrone Dolmen, where the children found clints and grikes on the limestone landscape, as well as marvelling at the structure of the dolmen.



*Trip to the Burren*

As always, St Michael's NS is incredibly lucky to be situated in the city as there are many places within walking distance. On Monday 12th November, the Senior classroom walked as far as the War

Memorial in Pery Square to commemorate those from Limerick who had served in the First World War. Each year we are invited to participate in Science Week activities in Mary Immaculate College. This year the invitation was extended to include Second to Sixth Classes. This opportunity for hands-on practical science is invaluable and really enhances science teaching in the school.

Our Senior Choir are busy practising for the annual upcoming Christmas singing events. These include going to the Crescent Shopping Centre, the Milk Market and of course, our visit to Richmond Terrace.

## Kiltallagh National School, Castlemaine

### CHRISTMAS AT KILTALLAGH

The festive season is well and truly underway here in Kiltallagh with the children full of excitement and anticipation ahead of the arrival of DaidinaNollag later this month!

To wrap up what has been an incredibly busy first term we have several enjoyable Christmas trips and treats in store for the children. We plan to:

- Enjoy a trip to 'Killarney on Ice' to perfect our ice-skating skills and hopefully avoid too many bumps and bruises!
- Visit Santa and his reindeer at Knockreer House in Killarney National Park and enjoy some hot chocolate and cookies in his grotto;
- Have a Christmas Jumper Charity Walk through the village of Castlemaine;
- Enjoy some Christmas baking under the expert guidance of parent Ciara Orme;
- Enjoy a Christmas outing to Balloonagh National School, Tralee, for a day of drama and fun;
- Have a beautiful Christmas Christingle Service with Rev'd Isabel, Rev'd Ann-Marie, our families and school community.



*Past pupils*



*Current pupils*



*Youngest and eldest pupil with Bishop Kenneth*

It is often said that it takes a village to raise a child, it can also be said that it takes a community to raise a school. Here in Kiltallagh we are so very fortunate indeed to have such a wonderful supportive community that has helped raise our beautiful school since its opening on September 6th 1938. As we approach the end of this our 80th year we wish to express our sincere gratitude to all who have played their own invaluable part in ensuring that we are still continuing to go from strength to strength in this our 9th decade. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Peaceful and Happy Christmas as we look forward to your ongoing community support in helping Kiltallagh National School continue to grow, thrive and prosper long into the future.

Nollaig Shona agus Ath Bhliain fé mhaise díbh go léir  
Ó Scoil Cill Tullaigh

## Rathkeale No2 National School

School reopened following the mid-term break with a very busy week here in Number Two. We have begun our folk dancing workshops with Larry and Ita Southard. Larry and Ita were with us two years ago and we were delighted to welcome them back to Rathkeale. Folk dancing workshops will run for six weeks and we hope to have a selection of dances to perform for parents, family and friends before Christmas. The Liam McCarthy Cup visited the school on Friday 9th November and we all got a chance to get our photograph taken with the cup.

Pupils attended a Science Show in St Anne's National School, Rathkeale during Science Week. We were amazed by some wonderful and exciting investigations based on the theme of water.

We look forward to a visit to the library in December when local author, Roisín Meaney will hold a reading for our pupils.

Please support our fundraising Tommy Fleming concert which will be held in Holy Trinity Church on 8th December. Tickets at €30 are available from Dan Donovan at Rathkeale House Hotel.

Our annual Christmas concert and Santa's visit will take place on 20th December and we will close for Christmas with a short Carol Service in Holy Trinity Church on Friday 21st December. School will reopen on Monday 7th January 2019.

## Glebe National School, Aughrim

What an enjoyable Halloween Party we had here at The Glebe N.S. on Friday 26th October and how wonderful to collect funds for Temple Street Children's Hospital at the same time. It's hard to believe that now it is full steam ahead for Christmas. Our work on the Christmas play started this week with much excitement already about roles and costumes!



Halloween costumes

We had a very informative session with Mark Molloy, the Green Schools Co-Ordinator from Galway Co. Council on Tuesday 23rd October. He came to advise us on the next steps for our Energy Flag. Following his talk, Ms. Bonner and the senior classes went on a field trip around the village to investigate eco- friendly buildings and solar panels. It proved very informative for all.

Congratulations to Ms. Waters, her husband Donncha and their son Daithí on the arrival of baby Cian on the 22nd October. We were delighted to hear their great news! We send them our good wishes and we look forward to both their visit and Ms. Fenton's visit with baby John.

## Villiers School

### HOCKEY

The junior and senior girls played against Ursulines with wonderful performances by both teams. Unfortunately, we lost one match but enjoyed a 3-0 victory in the second.

Senior Boys were also in action and a terrific performance by the team led to a 3-2 victory against Middleton.

### RUGBY

U15 and Senior Boys were both in action with the U15s losing a tough match against PBC and the seniors also losing out to Cistercian College. Congratulations to the winners and well done lads on a terrific effort.

### REMEMBRANCE

On Monday 12th November the school held a ceremony of remembrance for the veterans and all from Villiers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. This was particularly significant as we were remembering Armistice Day and the onset of peace after World War One. A very poignant ceremony held in the sports hall including many artefacts on display from machinery to clothing that was used during the war. Thank you to all the military personnel and to Sean Collopy for organising the event.



Ceremony of Remembrance in the Sports Hall

## News From The Villiers Sanctuary

It is during November that we take time out to remember. This year we had a very special act of remembrance in Villiers to mark the occasion of Armistice Day and the end of the Great War. We also held our annual Remembrance service for our community in St Mary's Cathedral. This has become a truly wonderful and spiritual space for people in our community. This year everyone was given a small wooden holding cross as they entered the Cathedral, and then asked 'What cross or burden are you carrying?' An invitation issued to all to come forward and place their cross on the altar and hear the words of Christ as He says 'Come to me all who are heavy laden and I will give you peace.' This was a very moving liturgy and I want to say a big thank you to everyone who helped, especially the 'lads', a group of wonderful young ladies who formed a band for the night and performed so beautifully.

The next major liturgical event is the Carol Service of Nine Lessons in St Mary's on the 21st of December. It seems rather strange to be talking about Christmas, but it is what is uppermost in people's minds right now. As we move towards Christmas, there are huge advertising campaigns all trying their best to entice us into buying particular gifts. We all like to get presents, but in this consumerist society, people often spend more than they can really afford. I was reading an article recently about Advent calendars, and how they have their origins in Germany where, starting on 1 December, Christians used to put chalk marks on their front door every day until Christmas Day. The idea of the chalk marks was to remind people each time they walked through the door that God sent Jesus into the world. In many ways, it seems that the priorities of Christmas and its meaning have changed. The commercial side of Christmas seems to have grown, causing people to worry about money and to place themselves in debt.

It is interesting to consider what a difference it would make if we could change our attitudes and values at Christmas. What if everyone spent less and instead set a much smaller budget for Christmas presents? How would we feel if that happened in our house? At Christmas, it is easy to get wrapped up in the excitement of what we want, when actually we can get so much enjoyment out of giving to others. As we enter the season of Advent, let's take time this year to think about the true value and meaning of Christmas. Maybe we could spend less or make arrangements with our friends to set a budget for gifts. Maybe we could spend more time with people rather than spending more money. This Christmas let's remember that it isn't how much something costs that matters, but the love that is behind the gift. Let's also remember that love, care, thoughtfulness and kindness are all great gifts to share with our families and friends . . . and they are free! Let's remember that our attitudes to giving and receiving can affect those around us. Let's aim to be joyful givers and thankful receivers. The attitude of the Villiers Sanctuary is 'it is not the amount that we give to someone that matters, but the love that lies behind it that really counts!'

*Dear God, Help us to be grateful for everything that we receive this Christmas, regardless of the cost. Help us to bring happiness, joy and peace to other people. May we remember your gift to the world this Christmas. Amen*

Until next time, Blessings and peace  
Chaplain Jackie McNair

# Killaloe Diocese

## Killaloe & Stradbally Union of Parishes

*Killaloe, Castleconnell, Clonlara, Mountshannon and Tuamgraney.*

Rector & Dean: The Very Rev. Gary Paulsen

The Deanery, Abbey Road, Killaloe, Co. Clare

Tel: 061-374 779

Mob: 085-764 0533

Email: abbeydean2@gmail.com

Canon Jane Galbraith celebrated and preached in our churches in October at Castleconnell and Killaloe as part of her residency by virtue of her being a canon in the cathedral. The joint chapter of the diocese met in November at Killaloe Cathedral. The chapter meets in the morning and celebrate the Eucharist together, have some coffee and then into a meeting session talking about cathedral matters. We then headed off to lunch at the Lakeside Hotel. The chapter now meets five times a year and alternates between St Mary's Cathedral in Limerick and St Flannan's Cathedral in Killaloe with the Dean of Killaloe and Dean of Limerick alternating the chairing of the meeting.

Ava O'Donnell was baptised on 4 November at St Flannan's Cathedral. Our good wishes to the parents Brendan and Helen who were married in the cathedral in 2015. It was wonderful to have so many friends and family come and witness her baptism.

### REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

+ Kenneth was the celebrant and preacher at our Eucharist service of Remembrance Sunday at the cathedral in Killaloe. The bells rang out from 11 at the cathedral to remind us of 11th hour. This started with the Westminster chime on the hour followed by ringing until 11.30 when we then commenced with the church service.

Mountshannon Remembrance Service saw local man George Sparling display memorabilia of his uncle Henry Thompson in the war. Photos, names and family remind us all of the personal loss and tragedy our local families have experienced in the Great War.



*Some WW1 memorabilia in Clonlara Church*

On the 17th November the Kiltenanlea Church in Clonlara had an afternoon Centenary celebration marking the end of World War 1. People were asked to bring along artefacts and memorabilia they may have had from the era and experts were on hand to appraise them. The things that were on display were so varied that made for

an interesting exhibition. The Exhibition was from 2 to 4 pm and there were hundreds of people through the door. At 4 there was a Centenary Celebration. Our local Kiltenanlea Voices were present to provide the singing. There were short talks by Tony Thulier, Kevin Milligan and Freddie Bourke. There was also the reading of the names of 69 Clare soldiers who lost their lives with the placing of remembrance crosses. The act of Remembrance with a bugler on hand for the Last Post and Recital: 'They shall grow not old' by Pat Mulcahy then The Last Post by the bugler while the Legion Standard was dipped. A minute's silence followed by Reveille by the bugler while the Legion Standard was raised. Our thanks to all involved and the local friends who organised the day. Our thanks to all who arranged and participated in the day. Our special thanks to Stephen Holmes and Pat Mulcahy. It would be fair to say that the day exceeded our expectation.

### CHRISTMAS SERVICES

24 December @ 11.30 pm Mountshannon

25 December

Stradbally Castleconnell at 9.45 am

Killaloe Cathedral @ 11.30 am with +Kenneth as Celebrant and preacher.

## Birr Group of Parishes

*Birr, Lorrha, Lockeen, and Dorrha*

Rector: The Venerable R. Wayne Carney

Archdeacon of Killaloe & Clonfert

The Rectory, Birr, Co. Offaly

Tel: 057 912 0021 Mob: 087 786 5234

Email: mapleire@gmail.com

Parish Facebook: [www.facebook.com/BirrGroupOfParishes](http://www.facebook.com/BirrGroupOfParishes)

### PRAYERS

In our prayers we remember Theo Dillon, Betty Eades, Harry Edge, Pamela Edge, Tom Hayes, Pam Reid, and baby Saoirse. We are thankful that Theo and Harry are now out of hospital and have returned home.

### CONDOLENCES

Sincere condolences to Raymond and Hilda Colbourne on the death of their son, Thomas; and to Hazel, his wife, sons Stephen and Andrew, and all the family. Thomas' funeral took place on Monday, 19th November in St James' Church, Castledermot.



*Micheál Ó Súilleabháin playing at the Irish World Music Café, in Limerick Methodist's CB1 (see page 32) – may he rest in peace*

## MOTHERS' UNION

At their meeting at the Rectory on Monday, 29th October, members of the Mothers' Union decorated shoeboxes which they filled with items for vulnerable children overseas.



Mothers' Union Members with decorated shoeboxes

## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Many thanks to all who took part on our Remembrance Sunday service to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice which ended the First World War. We were delighted to have more than 180 in attendance for the service, which was enhanced by the participation of the Birr Choral Society, soloist Yvonne O'Toole, organist Enda O'Connor, and trumpeter Patrick Rowley-Brooke, who played the Last Post and Reveille. Wreaths were laid by Lord Rosse, Val Johnson (accompanied by grandchildren Seán and Sinéad), Brian Thompson, Theo Dillon, and John Hollingsworth, the secretary of Leinster Regiment Ireland. Archdeacon Carney was the officiant and preacher, assisted by the Revd Janet White Spinner, the Revd Marie Rowley-Brooke, Fr Michael Reddan, and Diocesan Readers David Frizelle and Norma-Jean Carney.

## CONFIRMATION

Any young people aged 12 or older who are interested in Confirmation should contact the Archdeacon as soon as possible, so the service can be arranged with Bishop Kenneth.

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

### Wednesday, 12th December

Carols in the Rectory & Kris Kringle Gift Exchange – 8:00 pm

### Thursday, 13th December

Lorrha Ecumenical Carol Service – 8:00 pm

### Sunday, 16th December

Birr Ecumenical Carol Service – 8:00 pm (in the Church of Ireland)

### Monday, 24th December – Christmas Eve

Lockeen 7:00 pm Children's Service & Family Eucharist

Birr 11:30 pm Traditional language Holy Eucharist

### Tuesday, 25th December – Christmas Day

Dorrha 9:30 am Holy Eucharist

Lorrha 10:00 am Holy Eucharist

Birr 11:30 am Holy Eucharist

### Sunday, 30th December – The 1st Sunday of Christmas

Birr 11:30 am Service of the Word & Carols

### Tuesday, 1st January – The Circumcision & Naming of Christ (New Year's Day)

Birr 11:30 am Holy Eucharist

### Sunday, 6th January – Epiphany

Dorrha 9:30 am Morning Prayer

Lorrha 10:00 am Holy Eucharist

Birr 11:30 am Traditional Holy Eucharist

We extend to everyone best wishes for the Christmas season. May the joy of the Christ Child's arrival bring every happiness to you and your loved ones.

## Roscrea Group of Parishes

St Burchin's Church Bourney, Christ Church Corbally, St Molua's Church Kyle, with St. Cronan's Church Roscrea

Rector: Canon Jane Galbraith

St. Cronan's Rectory, Rosemount, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary, E53X466

Tel: 0505 21725 Mob: 087 382 5336

Email: galbraithjane@gmail.com

## PARISH OUTING TO THE GARDA TRAINING CENTRE

Having assembled at the due time our group was warmly greeted and escorted to the Garda dining room where we met Sgt. Reynolds 'our minder', and rows and rows of 'blue shirts' being the shirts of assorted ranks and professions of Gardai. After a very nice lunch we made our way to a lecture theatre and a most interesting talk on the history of policing in Ireland, the formation of An Garda Síochana and of building itself. The afternoon was rounded off with a visit to the Garda Museum, a fascinating collection of items then and now. A thoroughly 'well worth it' afternoon was had by all. Many thanks to Heather and Lesley Evans for organising and thanks also to David Comby for his generous offering of parking facilities on the day and his most welcome little treats afterwards. The Garda Training Centre welcomes groups to come and visit them.



Roscrea Group of Parishes Outing to Garda Training Centre



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# Remembrance 2018 in pictures



The memorial to Maurice FitzGerald in St Nicholas', Adare



At the Remembrance Sunday service in St Brendan's, Birr:  
 Front: Lord Rosse, Val Johnson, Brian Thompson, John Hollingsworth (secretary Leinster Regiment Ireland)  
 Back: David Frizelle, Rev. Marie Rowley-Brooke, Rev. Janet White Spinner, Archdeacon Wayne Carney, Fr. Michael Reddan, Norma-Jean Carney



At Shinrone Remembrance service:  
 Front - The children who read the names of the war veterans  
 Middle (l-r): Margaret Howe, Marcella Corcoran Kennedy TD who laid a wreath on behalf of the Belgium Embassy, Pat Brophy  
 Back (l-r): John Lloyd, Tom Hoolan, Mabel Wallace, Lee Deane and Michael Leonard



Parading the standard in Clonlara Church



The Sunday School children made poppies for the Remembrance Day Service in Rathkeale

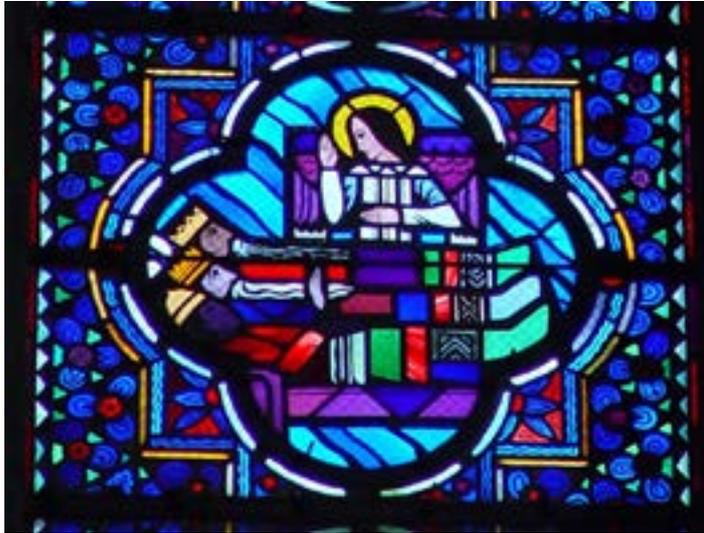


Mrs Claire Besnyoe and Mr Jimmy Naughten at the book launch of 'Ballinasloe & District Remembers 1914-1918'

# What Epiphany means to me

## by Canon Jane Galbraith, Rector of Roscrea

Epiphany is my favourite liturgical season. I like the time of year in which it sits. Its themes reflect nature's cycle of preparation for renewal, which needs so much to be knit back into the liturgical year, and not left to private prayer or harvest time.



Epiphany is a season of promise, of approaching light, of making ready in the plant and animal world. It gives us human beings permission to be restless, to anticipate and to accept the new a little bit more. It is also a down time; January! Oil tanks running low! Bank debts running up! Windscreens fogging over! Christmas lights out!

If I had to by-pass Christmas I couldn't miss Epiphany. It cannot be packed away. It lasts. It looks back from Candlemas and forward to Easter. It arches the whole story. What a faith! To have its mysteries all wrapped around in stories - the very holiest kind of stories. Profoundly meaningful Epiphany. Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar are rightly given all those Sundays after The Epiphany - a space for me to visit. A space to reflect on that charming story of the teenage girl mouse in John Shea's book - after a terrible row with her parents, she stowed away in a saddle bag on Caspar's camel named 'Lucky', and made it all the way to the Christ child. The Epiphany story! What a story!



Here's the rub - Were there three, Wise Men? How exactly were they wise? Did they ride camels? Why hasn't the teenage girl mouse got a name, and how and where did she get smuggled into the story? Enough speculation!

The Epiphany Carol Service is the best one for me. Singing out the fulfilling of the promise, 'that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light!'. The unfolding of the Christmas message to the Gentiles; to accept the invitation to become involved with our Creator God again. It is about the revelation of God's nature in Jesus Christ: His baptism. His glory: the turning of water into wine. It is also about call. Maybe above all for me it is about the workings out of Holy Baptism, my part in the mission and the unity of that call.

Small wonder I need the profoundness of the gold, frankincense and myrrh. Which of the king characters will I identify with this coming year, I wonder? Or, instead, maybe one of the camels sitting outside the door, or the girl mouse. I haven't decided yet.

For Epiphany, I will want to turn to poetry. It is the poets who approach and plumb the depths of mysteries and catch a glimpse of the glorious reality of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Recently, dipping into John O'Donohue's 'Benedictus' - a book gifted to me whilst on a 'pastoral journey' - his words from 'For Longing' reminded me how it puts Epiphany's meaning in perspective.

*'Blessed be the longing that brought you here  
And quickens your soul with wonder.  
May you have the courage to listen to the voice of desire  
That disturbs you when you settle for something safe.'*



And on that piece goes, provoking, peeling at layers of heart, mind, soul and strength. For me, it peers right at Immanuel.

John Shea's book, 'Starlight - Beholding the Christmas Miracle All Year Long', supplies my richest Epiphany explorations, revealing the endless restlessness that is the birthing into existence of the human soul. The truth is that, restlessness is THE human struggle! To live life and not know the fruit of that struggle is to miss an essential vitality. It is a refusal of the blessing O'Donohue writes about.

Another poet Christopher Pillings calls Epiphany 'the deep beauty of reconciliation!'. There is too the idea that Epiphany-tide is an invitation to again 'bring into unity that which is scattered!'. Is that not what Herod knew in his soul's guts, what he should have been doing when the Wise Men came to visit him on their way to the Child King? It is a call to deepest communion: that which is capable of carrying the priceless gift of being known and loved, and being able and willing to give the same.

Happy are we who look 'with the eyes of our hearts' to Epiphany's Light.

# What Christmas means to me

by V Rev Gary Paulsen, Dean of Killaloe



I grew up in the southern hemisphere where it is summer at Christmas and everyone wants to go to the beach or swim in the outdoor pools and braai (Barbeque). It has been a different experience the last 8 Christmases in Ireland. The colonisation of South Africa by the English influenced a lot of the customs where I grew up in the Western Cape. So the food that was eaten at Christmas would be more appropriate to winter in the northern hemisphere. There was usually some kind of roast bird, be it chicken, goose, duck or turkey with a leg of gammon and the hot Christmas pudding with custard and trifle. The Christmas cake would be made in October and well preserved with brandy. To create the wintry atmosphere the Christmas tree usually also had cotton balls strewn all over it to look like snow. My mom would even have used talcum powder to make foot prints of Father Christmas (Santa) to show he had come in and had a bite of the cookie and sip of milk. We continued the tradition with our own families once we were married.



We always had dinner together on Christmas Eve and between each course of the meal we would be allowed to open a gift. We usually then went to church for the 11 pm church service and you usually needed to be there 45 minutes early if you were to have a seat. We still have our

meal on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day we have the 'left-overs' as it is just too tiring to do it all when there are church services to be done. So Christmas Eve and Day was about family, food and celebration. We always were told that it was Jesus' birthday and hence the celebration and the sharing of gifts. We also would sing happy birthday to Jesus and clink a glass in his honour. So these things I learnt growing up still stay with me and I try to carry on these family rituals.

Having moved to Ireland the weather is appropriate for the hot food, and I love the cold at Christmas, the fire and the mulled wine and mince pies. People go through much effort to decorate their homes inside and many outside as well. The decoration of outdoor lights as you drive by homes all highlight the season, and the words 'a light has come into the world' is made visible, knowingly or unknowingly, by those who put up the lights.

The same with going into the shopping malls, hearing the Christmas music being played, the throng of people and the buzz of human activity. Some are frustrated by the music and secularisation of Christmas, but I think this too brings people, and even people of no faith, into the realm of awareness that it is Christmas, and what is being celebrated is the birth of Christ. So instead of being bogged down, I love it. I think that God can meet us where we are, even in a shopping mall, and by the strangest of ways.

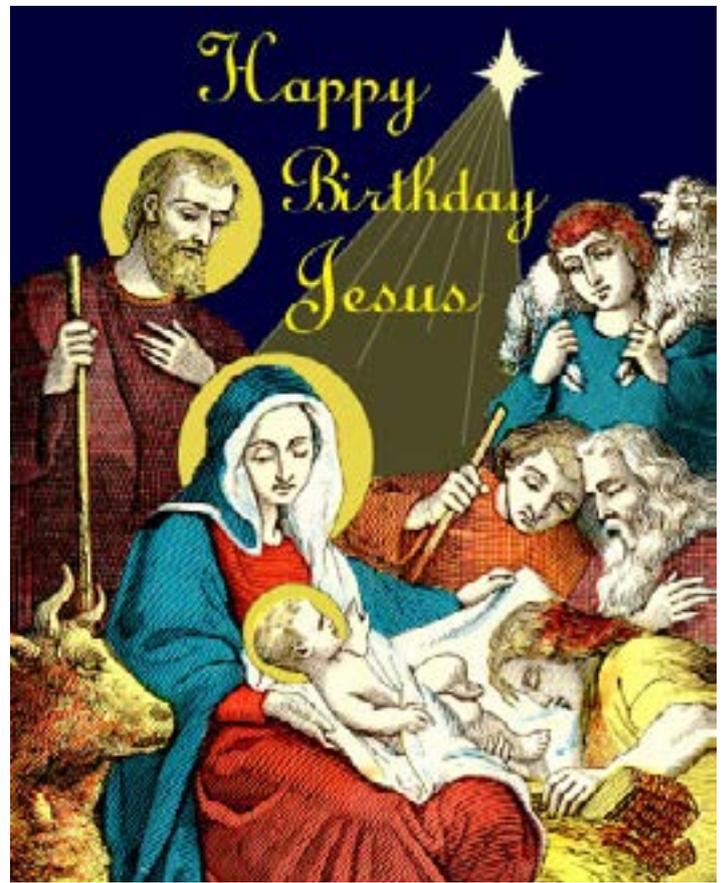


The churches are usually full at Christmas time - some make their annual pilgrimage to the church, others are visiting family and may be brought along to a church service. All of the different voices and human bodies in the church really make us aware of life in all its diversity.

Christ came into the world to share in our humanity and to show how it is to be fully human. We sometimes use our humanity as an excuse by saying, 'I am only human'. Yet the celebration is this very thing of being human that God comes to share in the person of Jesus. Christmas also highlights to me how much God trusts us as humanity to do the right thing and take care of the vulnerable. How more vulnerable and dependant can you be than a baby. Baby Jesus, born in humble unsanitised circumstances, takes his place among us through a young mother who probably suffered rejection from her own community. Our humanity should never be used as an excuse but as a gift to the world in which we are called to make a difference as Jesus did.

In the past I would be so precise about the twelve days of Christmas, and even in churches I would have insisted the Christmas lights not be switched on until we blessed the tree at Christmas. However, over time I have learnt to be more relaxed about these things, not so much fussed about the 'law', but simply to highlight the love that Jesus came to bring into the world. This year my tree is going up in November simply because my daughter and granddaughter are visiting. I will not see them at Christmas and so we will share a meal. Jesus shared a meal with his friends and said, 'do this as often as you can to remember me'. So we will remember Jesus birthday and celebrate Christmas aware that we have the privilege to do so while others do not.

So, happy birthday Jesus. Nollaig shona duit.



## Photos from the UDYC International Exchange Trip to Romania

(See report on page 10)



*Time for a rest after a walk in the woods*



*The food was a great experience*



*The Irish prepare for the Zip-wire in Romania*



*The whole group of Romanians, Irish & Germans*

YOUNG PEOPLE ON MISSION

Two of our young people are travelling overseas this year. Isobel Wallace has travelled recently with the U.D.Y.C. on an International Exchange Trip to Radauti, North Eastern Romania. This is a three way partnership between U.D.Y.C. and secondary schools in Germany and Romania. Eva Wallace is hoping to go to Calcutta India in January 2019, through her TY class in Our Lady's Secondary School Templemore. This trip is organised through the Hope Foundation. Eva will learn about international development, visit projects and do some hands on work too. Eva is fund raising like crazy, anyone wishing to support her can do so, however small the amount, by contacting Pam Wallace at 086-8561753 before year end 2018. In due course it is hoped the girls might tell us all about their travels in mission.

WW1 SERVICES OF COMMEMORATION.

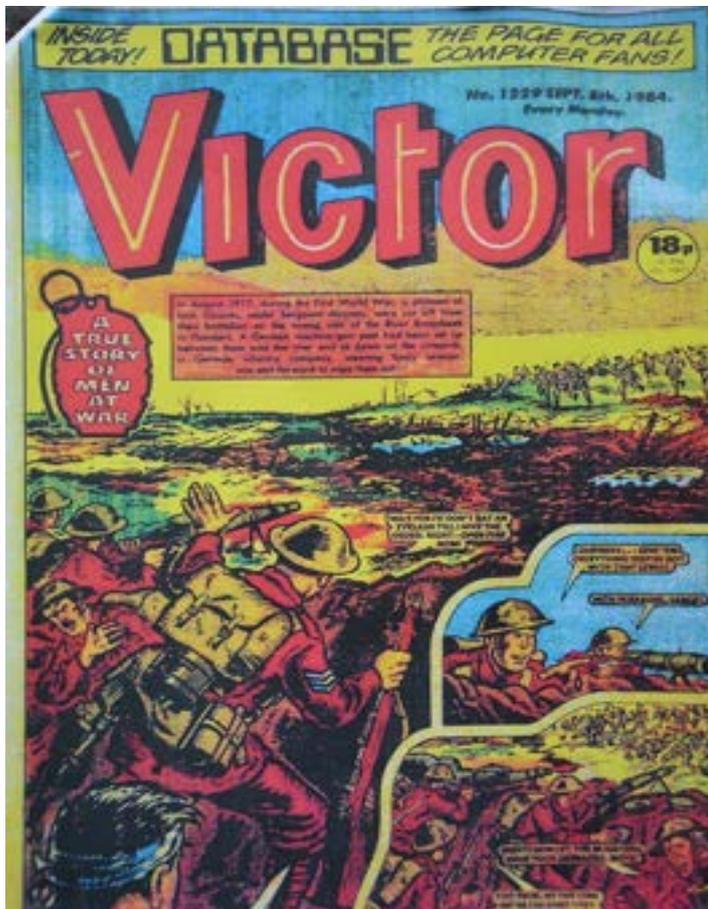
The first event was held on November 10th, organised as an ecumenical service by the residents of Ashbury Estate. Fourteen houses were built in 1920 by the government for soldiers returned from WW1. The most famous of these men was John Moyney who was born in Rathdowny and an Irish recipient of the VC Victoria Cross, the highest most prestigious award for gallantry and bravery in the face of the enemy that can be awarded to British and Commonwealth forces.

On a much lighter note, Sergeant John Moyney V.C. is immortalised on the front of the Victor Comic September 1984!.

About 500 men from Roscrea enlisted of whom 100 were killed in battle. The Ashbury folk are very proud of Legion Villas and have a commemorative plaque in place. This year they added an inscribed bench which was also dedicated to the memory of those who fought and died in WW1.

Sunday Nov. 11th, St. Cronan's Church Roscrea extended the opportunity for all in our group of parishes to attend the service of commemoration. During the Act of Remembrance this year all twenty six names on the front of our carved stone WW1 Memorial Prayer Desk were read aloud and some detail of their age and location of burial all over Europe. Notably two of six brothers, the two listed, died in the same week! The war poets added words to the service. Two wreaths were laid one at the prayer desk, the other and at the carved stone pulpit which was given as a gift by the family of George Averil Read. Afterwards we got the bells going.

Roscrea Group of Parishes wish all who are reading this a happy and holy Christmas and Epiphany-tide.



Sergeant Jack Moyney V.C. His story of courage and valour

He was 22 years old, and a Lance Sergeant in the 2nd Battalion of the Irish Guards. Jack was in command of 15 men forming two advance posts. Surrounded by the enemy fire he held his post for 96 hours, having no water and very little food. On the 5th day, the enemy advancing to dislodge him, he attacked them with bombs, while also using his Lewis gun with great effect. Finding himself and his men surrounded, he led his men in a charge through the enemy and reached a stream, where he and a Private Thomas Woodcock covered their party while they crossed unscathed, before crossing themselves under a shower of bullets. He later achieved the rank of Sergeant, he died in 1980 and is buried in Dungar Cemetery, Roscrea.

His Victoria Cross is displayed at the Irish Guards Regimental Headquarters London.



Ashbury Gardens Ecumenical wreath laying and Bench Dedication 2018 Remembering all who fought in WW1.

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## Nenagh Union of Parishes

Nenagh, Templederry, Ballymackey and Killodiernan

Rector: Rev Rod Smyth

The Rectory, Church Rd, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary.

Tel: 067 32598, Mob: 087 970 6479

Email: [rsmyth6582@btinternet.com](mailto:rsmyth6582@btinternet.com)

### REMEMBERING

November has been a busy season of remembering in the Nenagh Union. On Saturday 3rd November, parishioners gathered in the ruins of Ballymackey Parish Church for a service to remember relations and family members buried here and at other graveyards in the Union and for a blessing of the graves. After the short service everyone retired to Mrs Jean Hodgins for tea and refreshments. A very big thank you to Jean for her hospitality.

Then on All Saints' and all Souls' days there was a Eucharist where those who had died in the past year in the Union were remembered, and there was an opportunity for parishioners to light a candle in memory of a departed loved one.

During the Remembrance weekend, a service of Remembrance was held at the War Memorial on Ashe Road, and on Remembrance Sunday an act of remembrance was held at each service. In St Mary's the bell was tolled to recollect the centenary of the signing of the Armistice and the ending of the Great War in 1918.

### FRIENDSHIP LUNCH

On Monday 19th November we embarked on a new idea in the Union. Some of our parishioners who perhaps don't get out as much as they used to were invited to lunch at the Thatched Cottage in Ballycommon by the Select Vestry. We decided to start small and see how it went. The success of the day means that we are now considering a slightly bigger event in the future, and we hope that this parish event will grow and become a regular event every quarter.

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### CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

As we approach Christmas in the Union we have been gearing up once again for the annual Christmas Tree Festival. The Festival has really become part of what it means to keep Christmas in Nenagh and this year we hope to see even bigger crowds at this wonderful event. The Festival will run from Wednesday 12th until Sunday 16th December, and will conclude, as is now traditional, with the community Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.



Some of the creative trees at the 2017 Nenagh Christmas Tree Festival

L I M E R I C K



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The partner charity during the Festival, which is held in St Mary's Church, Church Road, Nenagh, is Focus Ireland.

Opening times are as follows;

Wednesday 12th 1.00 – 6pm

Thursday 13th 1.00 – 6pm

Friday 14th 1.00 – 8pm

Saturday 15th 10.30am – 6pm

Sunday 16th 10.30am – 3.30pm, followed by the Festival of Lessons and Carols at 4pm.

Refreshments will be served after the Carol Service and presentations to the winners of the various categories will follow. Do come along, step aside from the Christmas rush, and wonder at the creativity on display. Our famous cream teas will also be available – treat yourself and make a day of it!



## Cloughjordan & Borrisokane Group of Parishes

Cloughjordan, Borrisokane, Borrisnafarney and Ballingarry.

Rector: Rev Terry Mitchell

Modreeny Rectory, Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary

Tel: 0505 42183

Mob: 087 203 9333

Email: [terrym438@gmail.com](mailto:terrym438@gmail.com)

Remembrance Day Services were held in all the parishes on the 11th of November to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War. The names of those soldiers killed during the Great War were read out and a minute's silence held to honour their memory.

It was a privilege for the congregation at St Kieran's to sing a hymn composed by Sergeant James Somers while in the trenches at Flanders, particularly as a number of his relatives are still members of St Kieran's and were present at the service. Sergeant Somers was awarded the Victoria Cross while in service in Gallipoli for his bravery. This is the highest award that can be bestowed upon a soldier in the British Army.

These are the words of the hymn:

*As the day declineth, 'mid the shadows dim,  
Listen, Holy Father, to our parting Hymn.  
Shadows too have gathered O'er the land we love.  
But thy mercy shineth, like a star above.*

*Be with all the dear ones whom we miss tonight.  
In the hours of danger keep them calm and bright.  
From the camp and trenches, from the battle plain,  
From the mine sown ocean, bring them safe again.*

*Help, O God of comfort, all who vainly yearn  
For familiar footsteps which shall not return.  
Those who sad and lonesome, our protection claim,  
May we gladly cherish in our Saviour's name.*

*May the shadows draw us, closer Lord to thee.  
Bless to us the lessons, of adversity.  
Through our stress and sorrow, be our strength and stay,  
Till the night of weeping, wears to peaceful day.*

### CAROL SERVICES

Borrisnafarney 16 December 10:15am

Borrisokane 23 December 10:15am

Cloughjordan 23 December 7:00pm

### CHRISTMAS WHIST DRIVES

Cloughjordan 5 December 8:15pm

Borrisokane 12 December 8:15pm

Ballingarry 17 December 8:15pm

### VARIETY CLUB

Christmas Lunch at Roscrea Golf Club on the 3rd of December. All welcome with names to Betty Powell by the 1st of December.

### CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Ballingarry 24 December 7:00pm

Borrisnafarney 24 December 8:30pm

Borrisokane 25 December 10:15am

Cloughjordan 25 December 11:30 am

## Shinrone Group of Parishes

Shinrone, Aghancon, Kinnitty and Dunkerrin

Rector: Vacant

Parish Website: [shinrone.blogspot.ie](http://shinrone.blogspot.ie)

Priest-in-Charge: The Revd. Canon Ruth Gill

Kilgolan House, Kilcormac, Birr, Co. Offaly. R42 HT20

Phone: 05791 35341: email: [ruth\\_gill40@outlook.ie](mailto:ruth_gill40@outlook.ie)

### CHURCH SERVICES

Kinnitty 10 a.m.

Aghancon 11.30 a.m.

Dunkerrin 9 a.m.

Shinrone 10.30 a.m.

Holy Communion in Dunkerrin & Shinrone on the first Sunday of the month and in Kinnitty & Aghancon on the second Sunday of the month.

### SERVICES OVER CHRISTMAS

Sunday, 23rd December

United Group Carol Service in Shinrone at 7.30 p.m.

Monday, 24th December

Christmas Eve: Services of Holy Communion

7.00 p.m. in Aghancon

8.30 p.m. in Kinnitty

Tuesday, 25th December

Christmas Day: 9.00 a.m. Dunkerrin

10.30 a.m. Shinrone

### SHINRONE HERITAGE GROUP AND ST. MARY'S CHURCH OF IRELAND

A very moving service of commemoration for those from the Shinrone locality who fought in World War 1 was held on Armistice Day 2018. Among the large attendance were members of the Government, local politicians and Councillors. Also present were the Revd. Tom Kingston, Methodist Church, Fr. Michael Reddin, Birr & Shinrone, Fr. Laurence Walsh, Mount St. Joseph's Abbey and the Revd. Janet White Spinner.

Many people were involved in preparing for the occasion but special thanks has to be given to the members of the Heritage Group who put so much thought and effort into making the day a truly memorable one for those who had lost family members. Four children read out the names of those who died and they did so beautifully. The Last Post was played followed by the silence and Reveille. The church bell rang the Peal for Peace and wreaths were laid. Thanks to Jennifer Simmonds who played the organ and to members of the other St. Mary's Choir who helped with the singing. The Heritage Group mounted a wonderful display of memorabilia in the Community Hall, which created huge interest, and arranged refreshments for everyone. After the ceremonies in Shinrone, a group visited Dunkerrin to pay respects at a memorial headstone to Lance Sergeant G. Lucas MM who is buried in Dadizeele, Belgium.



Clergy who participated in the Armistice Day service



Jim Feighery & Michael Leonard presented a wreath on behalf of the Heritage Group  
Photographer:- Rose Mannion of the Midland Tribune.

#### WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS

Jacqueline Fairbrother and Michael Raleigh were married in St. Finnian's Church, Kinnitty, on the 2nd November. Canon Ruth Gill conducted the service assisted by Fr. John Moorhead, PP Eglis. The reception was held in the Bridge House, Tullamore. They are wished every blessing in their future life together.



Jacqueline and Michael Raleigh with their Bridal party

#### MOTHERS' UNION

Members of the MU will visit Ealga Lodge, Shinrone, to join the residents for carol singing on Thursday, 6th December. Holy Communion service is at 10.30 a.m. and members are reminded that the collection for Roscrea Lions will be delivered later that day.

#### CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

A united Carol Service for the Group of Parishes will be held in Shinrone on Sunday, 23rd December at 7.30 p.m. As well as the familiar carols and readings, children will take part in a nativity story. The collection will be given to the Emma Hannigan Fund. This fund is solely used for research into cancer, a very necessary tool in combating the causes of cancer. During the service, children will place small gifts under the tree for residents of Ealga Lodge which will be delivered after the service (for those who wish to contribute, €10 max and no toiletries or food please). All children are welcome.

### Drumcliffe Union with Kilnasoolagh

Ennis, Kilfenora, Spanish Point, Kilnasoolagh and Shannon

Vacant

Priest-in-Charge: Very Rev Maurice Sirr

Tel: 061 277 372, Mob: 087 254 1121

Email: [msirr@iol.ie](mailto:msirr@iol.ie)

Parish website: [www.churchofirelandclare.com](http://www.churchofirelandclare.com)

#### PRIEST IN CHARGE

In our parish grouping we very much appreciate the presence of The Very Rev. Maurice Sirr who has taken charge of our grouping while we await developments in selecting a replacement after the retirement of Canon Bob Hanna. Formerly Dean of Limerick and Ardfert, Maurice Sirr was educated at Dundalk Grammar School and Trinity College, Dublin. He was ordained Deacon in 1965 and Priest in 1966. He held curacies in Belfast and in Finaghy. He was the Incumbent at Drumcliff from 1969 until 1987 when he became Dean of Limerick and Ardfert until 2011 when he retired. He continues to be active in ministry and serves the diocese when and where required.

#### CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

At St Columba's we are organizing our first Christmas Tree Festival. It will not only be part of our Christmas celebrations and worship, but an opportunity for the community in Ennis to visit our beautiful church. Individuals, schools, groups and businesses have been asked to sponsor and/or dress one of the many trees. The themes for the trees will be traditional, artistic, and other ideas yet to be thought of. There will also be informal carol singing by various local groups and impromptu music. A number of concerts will also take place, the annual Regina Nathan Concert on the 1st, December and the annual Ennis Brass Band on 15th, December. Festival dates, 14/15/16th and 21/22/23rd December. Additional engagements being arranged as we go to press.

Christmas Carol Services will also be arranged for Christ Church Spanish Point and a Christingle (Christ Light) service in St. Fachtnan's Cathedral Kilfenora on Christmas Eve. There will also be a carol service arranged for Kilnasoolagh Church Newmarket-on-Fergus, date to be decided.

#### KILNASOOLAGH WEDDING

Weddings in Kilnasoolagh church are few and far between, the last wedding recorded was in 2008. But now 10 years on we celebrated wedding nuptials between Caroline Lisa Jane Cooke and Alistair Westland Gordon Clugson from the Derry area. The celebrant was Rev. Canon Sam McVeigh MBE TD DL, Rector of Limavady parish in the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe. Readers were Mr Mark Hawthorn and Dr. Diarmaid O'Longain. Soloist was Mrs Frances Doherty and organist was Mr Nigel Bridge. Reception afterwards was in nearby Dromoland Castle.

#### RETAINING WALL

At Kilnasoolagh Church we appreciate the excellent work done voluntarily by friend and neighbour of the parish Mike Maloney. He has taken down a very decrepit retaining wall approaching the front

door of Kilnasoolagh Church and rebuilt it. The work is of the highest standard in beautifully cut limestone and pointed and presented to those who appreciate such craftsmanship. Mike has given of his time, skill and materials all free, this we really appreciate. Thank You Mike.



*Wall Restoration*

#### RECENT ILLNESS

Best wishes are extended to Judith Ironside of Spanish Point for a speedy recovery from a recent illness. Judith is a staunch supporter of Christ Church at Spanish Point where she was instrumental a few years ago in the restoration of the spire having suffered storm damage. With friends Mary McMahon and Brigid Barron of the Soroptimists' she formed the group Caring for Carers in Ennis about 30 years ago. It has become the nucleus of the national organisation that is now helping carers in 23 counties throughout the country.

## Clonfert Diocese

### Aughrim & Creagh Unions of Parishes

*Aughrim, Ballinasloe, Ahascragh, Ardrahan, Clontuskert and Woodlawn*

Rector: Rev. John Godfrey

The Rectory, Aughrim, Co. Galway.

Tel: 090 967 3735 Mob: 087 900 8085

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#### SYMPATHIES

As a parish we extend our deepest sympathies to Fr Christy McCormac (P.P. of Fohenagh Parish) on the death of his father Patrick.



*The baptism of Rowan Walker in St Catherine's Church, Ahascragh.*

#### CONGRATULATIONS

We join with the community of The Glebe NS offer our heartfelt congratulations to Ms. Nicola Waters and her husband Donncha on the arrival of baby Cian. Congratulations to Helen and Leroy Walker on the baptism of their son Rowan in St Catherine's Church Ahascragh on November 10th. Well done to Shirley-Anne Godfrey (nee Bonner) on the performance of her play Frances-Browne: In Her Mind's Eye in the Lyric Theatre Belfast on November 1st, as part of their New Playwrights Programme.

#### REMEMBRANCE-TIDE

The month of November is an important landmark for many of us in our personal journey of grief. At this time, our church leaders and worshipping communities offer an important shared witness in memory of those who have died. On Sunday 4th November, Gullane's Hotel, Ballinasloe, hosted 'In November We Remember', a bereavement support event which featured a candle ceremony, the planting of a memorial tree, the releasing of white doves and a remembrance walk through the town. On Thursday 8th November, Ballinderry Nursing Home held an ecumenical Eucharist in memory of its residents who had died over the last year. The Community Nursing Unit in Creagh also held a remembrance service on Friday 9th November. A service of remembrance for the staff of Portiuncula Hospital was held in the hospital chapel on November 22nd. The Mill Race Nursing Home held their annual remembrance Eucharist on Friday 23rd November. On November 29th the Ballinasloe Cancer Support Centre held an ecumenical Eucharist in memory of their deceased members and in celebration of the lives of all cancer survivors.

This year's Remembrance Sunday services (in Ballinasloe, Aughrim and Ahascragh) were held on November 11th, the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War. A feature of this year's services was the sharing the stories of some of the 88 local people who died in the First World War, details of which were lovingly recorded in a new book Ballinasloe & District Remembers 1914-1918, which had been launched to great public support in Ballinasloe Library on November 6th (see photo on page 17).

Ardrahan Concert hosted Tunes For A Winter Afternoon on Sunday 18th November; a fundraising concert (in aid of Medecins Sans Frontieres and the ongoing repairs to the church windows) featuring performances from local artists. Mission Sunday services (in support of the Peter McVerry Trust) were held on November 25th in Ballinasloe, Aughrim & Ahascragh.

#### ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES

- Praying Into Advent, an Advent Bible study group will meet in the Rectory Coach House, Aughrim, from 7pm to 8pm on Tuesday Nov 27th, Dec 4th and 11th.
- In the spirit of Oak House, Mrs Claire Besnyone will be hosting Ecumenical Advent Eucharist in Ballydugan House on Friday 7th December 3.30pm. Celebrant Archdeacon Wayne Carney, preacher Fr Iomar Daniels.
- The Ahascragh Christmas Concert will take place on Sunday 9th December at 7.30pm in St Catherine's Church - a joyfully festive evening of seasonal music and reflections.
- The Ardrahan Community Carol Service will take place in Ardrahan Church on Tuesday 18th December at 7.30pm
- The Woodlawn Community Carol Service will be held in Woodlawn Church at 7.30pm on Thursday 20th December.
- St John's Church Ballinasloe will hold a United Carol Service on Sunday 23rd December at 10.30am. There will be no other services in the parish that morning.
- There will be Christmas Eve Communion services on Monday 24th December at 3pm in Ardrahan Church and at 6pm in Holy Trinity Church Aughrim.

- On Tuesday 25th December there will be a United Christmas Day Eucharist in St John's Church Ballinasloe at 10.30am.
- The First Sunday of Christmas will be celebrated in St Catherine's Church Ahascragh will a United Family Service at 11am on Sunday 30th December.

## Clonfert Group of Parishes

*Clonfert, Banagher, Eyrecourt, and Portumna*

Priest in Charge: Rev Charles McCartney

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A very busy end to November in Clonfert Group. A really intense time of preparation for Eyrecourt 150 (full report in next issue) and quickly followed by Mission Sunday.

Our services over Remembrance were small but significant for us, it was good to welcome Canon Trevor.

Looking forward and today the First Sunday in Advent leads us into a very busy time. This is my second Advent and Christmas in the group, it is good to be a little more prepared and ready for most invitations.

It was good to join the Active Retirement group in Banagher for an Ecumenical service just a few days past and we will celebrate Holy Communion in Eliza Lodge Thursday 6th December @ 11.00am.

As in all of my ministry, I continue to struggle, holding onto to Advent for as long as possible until being overwhelmed by the secular Christmas all around us. Having said that I really enjoy the message of our Christmas Carols being played in shopping centres and businesses all around us "Christ the Redeemer is here" and "with His blood mankind hath bought". I can live with those thoughts all day long!

We look forward to a LEGO building afternoon in the Rectory Saturday 15th from 2.00pm - 4.30pm. We will have an extravaganza of lego supplied by the Faith Mission Centre at Durrow. Mervyn will bring a team and all our younger folks are invited, we will have a Bible story, refreshments and of course the "Big Build". Parents may like to stay or escape for a bit of extra shopping!

We look forward to the possibility of a Community Carol Service in Clonfert Cathedral, negotiations are ongoing.

### JOINT GROUP SERVICES

Eyrecourt Carol Service Sunday 23rd December, Portumna Holy Communion Christmas Eve and Banagher Christmas Morning Holy Communion. Looking forward to lots of mulled wine and mince pies, timings will be advertised in our Group news sheet.

We will have lots of family around us and plan a family Christmas in the Rectory. Jerome will help me on the Sunday after Christmas with our Group Morning Prayer in Clonfert Cathedral (5th Sunday) @ 11.00am.

Everything returns to normal in January.

Happy Christmas and a Blessed New Year  
Charles and Cecilia.

# Limerick Diocese

## Limerick City Parish

*Saint Mary's Cathedral, Saint Michael's, Saint John's Abington*

Dean: Very Rev Niall J Sloane

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St Mary's Cathedral, Bridge St, Limerick V94 E068

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Newslink Distributor: Gillian Cheatley

### FROM THE DEAN

My prayer at this time of year is for all who find the Christmas season a sad or lonely time. No matter what your circumstances this Christmas, please be assured of the presence of God with us all – Emmanuel. To you all, I hope that this Christmastime may be filled with peace, rest and that wonderful sense of God's presence. Happy Christmas!

### DEAN'S CLINIC

The Dean will hold a clinic in the Cathedral from 4-5pm on 13th December.

### DIARY FOR THE MONTH

#### December 2018

- 2 Advent Sunday
- 2 Launch of St Michael's 175th, St Michael's Church
- 2 Advent Procession, The Cathedral
- 3 Mothers' Union, Richmond Terrace
- 8 Whist, St Michael's Hall
- 9 Sunday School/Godly Play, St Michael's Hall/St John's, Abington
- 13 Select Vestry, St Michael's Hall
- 15 Concert, St Michael's Church
- 17 Community Carol Service, St John's, Abington
- 18 Lunchtime Talk & Tour, The Cathedral
- 21 Villiers Carol Service, The Cathedral
- 22 Carols for the City, The Cathedral
- 23 A Blue Christmas, The Cathedral
- 23 Sunday School/Godly Play, St Michael's Hall/St John's, Abington
- 24 1st Eucharist of Christmas, The Cathedral
- 25 Christmas Day
- 30 United Service, St John's, Abington
- 31 New Years Eve, The Cathedral

#### January 2019

- 5 Whist, St Michael's Hall
- 6 Epiphany
- 7 Mothers' Union Beetle Drive, St Michael's Hall
- 17 Select Vestry, The Cathedral
- 20 Evensong: Epiphany Carol Service, The Cathedral
- 13 Sunday School/Godly Play, St Michael's Hall/St John's, Abington
- 27 Sunday School/Godly Play, St Michael's Hall/St John's, Abington

### ADVENT, CHRISTMAS & EPIPHANY

#### Saint Mary's Cathedral

- Sunday 2nd at 7pm, Advent Procession
- Sunday 16th at 8pm, Carols for the City

- Saturday 22nd at 5.30pm, Come & Sing Carols
- Sunday 23rd at 3pm, A Blue Christmas
- Christmas Eve at 11pm, Midnight Eucharist
- Christmas Day at 11.15am, Festival Eucharist
- Sunday 20th January at 7pm, Epiphany Carol Service

Saint Michael's Church

- Sunday 23rd at 10am, Carols around the Crib
- Christmas Day at 10am, Family Eucharist

Saint John's, Abington

- Monday 17th at 8pm, Community Carol Service
- Sunday 23rd at 11am, Carols around the Crib
- Christmas Day at 12noon. Holy Communion

**CHRISTMAS DECORATING**

If you wish to help out with the decorating you would be very welcome to join us. As Limerick City Parish is an "Equal Opportunities Employer" – Gentlemen are very welcome to try out their artistic skills!

**CHRISTMAS FAIR**

At time of writing we are looking forward to the Annual Christmas Fair. Thank you, in advance, to all those who are helping out with the preparations.

**REMEMBRANCE**

During the month of November, we marked the 100th anniversary of the ending of World War 1. It is nearly impossible to imagine the impact the war had on communities across Europe and beyond. From Ireland over 36,000 Irish men and women died in WWI. In Limerick some 4,000 people never returned. A small exhibition in the Cathedral included memorabilia, medals, artefacts and objects associated with Limerick and the 'Great War'. The objects on display were kindly on loan from Messrs Pat Brosnan and Pat Mulcahy, both residents of the City of Limerick.



*Annual Act of Remembrance at Sarsfield Barracks, Limerick City*

In addition to the exhibition a specially commissioned exhibition was unveiled on Sunday 4th November. Mr John Toomey (Sculptor) presented to the Cathedral two pieces of sculpture which were displayed in the Cathedral for the month of November. The two objects are a 'before and after' of going up from the trenches and in a dramatic and somber way remind the viewer of the horror and sacrifice of war. Added to the poignancy of the piece is the addition of soil from one of the French trenches.

On Friday 2nd November the Dean and the Rev'd Paul Fitzpatrick participated in the Annual Act of Remembrance in Sarsfield Barracks.

**ST MARY'S 850TH & ST MICHAEL'S 175TH**

For the last quarter of the year a number of events will be held as we continue our 850th anniversary celebrations. Please consult the relevant brochure or visit [www.cathedral.limerick.anglican.org](http://www.cathedral.limerick.anglican.org) for more information.

No sooner has our celebrations in the Cathedral concluded that we move focus to St Michaels where, on Advent Sunday, the programme for the 175th anniversary celebrations of 2019 will be launched.

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

We are grateful to the leaders of our Sunday Club who have organised a wide range of events and activities for the coming months. Children who wish to remain in church can avail of the Children's packs at the back of the church and/or follow along in our Parish Communion services with the 'I can join in the Holy Communion Service' booklets. Children are always welcome at our services and junior activities!

**THE EVERGREENS**

The Evergreens will meet monthly on Tuesdays from 2 pm to 4 pm. The next scheduled meeting is on Tuesday, 18 December.

Anyone requiring a lift should contact Oliver Deegan at 086 204 3296 or 061 635 367.

Grateful thanks to the committee who worked hard to make the occasion the success that it was.

**SELECT VESTRY**

The Register of Vestrypersons is open for revision until the 17th January 2019. If you are over 18 and subscribe to parish funds and are not yet registered, please see one of the Churchwardens and fill in the registration form. This will enable you to vote at the meeting of the General Vestry.

**MOTHERS' UNION**

Details of the December Christmas meeting are being finalized, please contact Branch Chair, Margaret Schutz for further details. The AGM will be held in January. New members always welcome.

**NEWSLINK**

Subscriptions for 2019 will be due shortly and may be paid to Gillian Cheatley. New subscribers are always welcome.

**SAINT MICHAEL'S NATIONAL SCHOOL**

News from our Parish School may be found elsewhere in Newlink

**AN ABHAINN**

The Winter edition is now available. The deadline for submissions to the next edition is the 15th February.

**ST MICHAEL'S HALL**

For booking enquiries please contact the Hall Manager, Suzi Eckhardt.

**HOSPITAL VISITING**

The Clergy would appreciate being told if parishioners are in hospital, going into hospital, are being transferred or if they have

<p>40 THOMAS ST LIMERICK</p> <p>TEL: 061 - 414967 FAX: 061 - 415365</p>	<p><i>Thompson Undertakers</i></p> <p><i>Limerick</i></p>
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been discharged, and will be pleased to offer pastoral support. A selection of prayers is available from them or in the Church porches.

#### FROM THE REGISTERS

##### Funerals

- 1st November (in the Cathedral) – Bernard Parsons
- 14th November (in the Cathedral) – Phyllis Gale

Our sympathy and prayers are with all those who have been bereaved:

- Pauline, Sarah, Seàn, Des, David and their families on the death of Bernard.
- Susan, Des and their families on the death of their mother, Phyllis.

## Adare and Kilmallock Group of Parishes

*Adare, Croom, Kilmallock & Kilpeacon*

Rector: Canon Liz Beasley

The Rectory, Adare, Co. Limerick.

Tel: 061 396227 Mob: 087-7199750

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#### REMEMBRANCE DAY

Remembrance Sunday is an important and highly valued day in our parishes. People especially wanted to observe it this year, as it was the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I. All the parishes had special services that Sunday to observe Remembrance Sunday.

In addition, on Friday, 9th November, we held as our special Second Friday event, an evening of poetry, Scripture, and both sacred and secular music. The service was bracketed at beginning and end with a hymn. In the middle, we followed the war chronologically, from recruitment, through participation in the war (whether on the frontlines or waiting at home for one's loved ones), through the end, and then looking back and reflecting on war. Poems and two psalms were interwoven with secular songs, such as "It's a Long Way to Tipperary," "Keep the Home Fires Burning," and a couple of songs that were written by men in the trenches and sung to the tune of traditional Irish songs. The service was well-attended. Many thanks to our organist/pianist Linda Walls and to Griselda Williams for finding the songs and leading the singing.

#### CHANGES IN SERVICE TIMES

We have been talking about altering our service times and have made a few changes:

- On the third Sunday of the month, Adare's service will be at 10.30am.
- On the fourth Sunday of the month, Croom's service will be at 10.30am.

#### APPLE JUICE

The Rectory will once again have "Holy Apple Juice" for sale as a fundraiser for the Rectory fund. The juice is made from the apples in the Rectory's orchard. The cost is €5.00 per bottle.



#### UPCOMING EVENTS

Below is the schedule for the various events we have for Advent and Christmas. The one event that has not yet been set is the Adare Christmas Carol Service. Please phone the church number or check our website, [www.adaregroup.org](http://www.adaregroup.org), to find the date and time for this service.

- Sunday, 9 December, 10.30am – Kilpeacon: Special Family service with the Sunday School performing a play for Advent.
- Wednesday, 12 December, 7.00pm – Mothers' Union: Annual General Meeting and Christmas party, with games and refreshments. At the Rectory.
- Sunday, 16 December, 12.30pm – Christmas Carol Service at Kilmallock. The children will form a nativity scene themselves as we hear the readings and sing carols. The service is followed by a Christmas dinner at the Deebert House Hotel, across the street from the Kilmallock church, with a special visitor from the North Pole.
- Monday, 24 December, 7.00pm – Christmas Eve service in Croom.
- Christmas Day, Holy Communion services at:  
Kilpeacon, 9.30am  
Kilmallock, 10.00am  
Adare, 11.30am
- Sunday, 30 December, 10.30am – Christmas Carol Service at Croom. No service in Kilpeacon or Adare. Morning Prayer in Kilmallock.
- Sunday, 6 January – Annual Epiphany party at the Rectory, from 1.30pm.

In the meantime, wishing a blessed Advent to all.

## Rathkeale & Kilnaughtin Group of Parishes

*Rathkeale, Askeaton, Castletown & Kilnaughtin*

Priest-in-Charge: Rev Canon Patrick Comerford

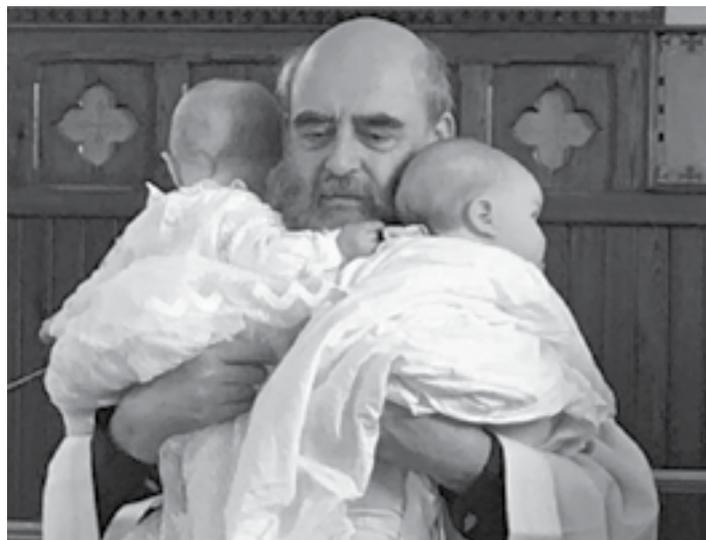
The Rectory, Askeaton, Co. Limerick.

Mob: 087 663 5116

Email: revpatrickcomerford@gmail.com

The autumn celebrations of Harvest and the November commemorations of the saints and the dead have come and gone. We are entering Advent and preparing for the coming of Christ, not only as the Christ Child at Christmas but once again as the King of Glory.

#### RECENT BAPTISMS:



*Beatrice Susan Langford and Chloe Dorothy Langford were baptised in Saint Mary's Church, Askeaton, on 21 October*

We recently welcomed two first cousins into the Body of Christ and as members of the Church. Beatrice Susan Langford, daughter of Richard and Claire Langford, and Chloe Dorothy Langford, daughter of William and Karen Langford, were baptised in Saint Mary's Church, Askeaton, on 21 October.

#### 'WE WILL REMEMBER THEM':

Gerald Griffin laid the wreath at the World War I memorial in Holy Trinity Church, Rathkeale, during the Remembrance Sunday Service on 11 November, and the church bells tolled at 11 minutes past 11, marking the 100th anniversary of the Armistice that brought an end to World War I.

The service included a minute's silence, reading the names of parishioners on the memorial, and three poems by war poets with links with this diocese. The Sunday School children made poppies, and the service was part of the Parish Eucharist.

#### MINISTRY, MISSION AND HOSPITALITY:

Priests and readers in Co Limerick were welcomed to a 'Ministry Lunch' in the Rectory in Askeaton on 14 November. The clergy and readers in the diocese are being encouraged to find ways of working closer together in Ministry, Mission and Hospitality, in identifiable areas or districts. A number of meetings have taken place in both the bishop's house and the dean's office in Limerick.

#### CME IN THE RECTORY:

The Revd Rod Smyth of Nenagh was in Askeaton recently to lead workshops for clergy and readers at Saint Mary's Rectory in Askeaton, Co Limerick, on 12 November. He looked at the choice of hymns, canticles and music for worship, and how to develop skills and confidence in this area.

#### TOMMY FLEMING CONCERT:

The evening with Tommy Fleming in Holy Trinity Church, Rathkeale, on Saturday 8 December promises to be an exceptional evening of music and song. This is a fundraising concert in aid of Rathkeale Number 2 National School. Tickets are still available from Rathkeale House Hotel at €30 each, or can be bought through Seamus Hogan or Linda Donovan in Rathkeale.

#### RATHKEALE NO 2 NATIONAL SCHOOL:

- Thursday 20 December: Christmas concert and party, 1 p.m., including some of the folk dances taught by Ita and Larry Southard.
- Friday 21 December: end-of-the term children's carol service, 12 noon.

#### DECEMBER, CHRISTMAS AND JANUARY SERVICES:

- Sunday 2 December (Advent 1): 9.30 a.m., Saint Mary's Church, Askeaton, Holy Communion; 11.30, Saint Brendan's Church, Kilnaughtin (Tarbert), Morning Prayer.
- Sunday 9 December (Advent 2): 9.30 a.m., Castletown Church, Kilcornan, Holy Communion; 11.30, Holy Trinity Church, Rathkeale.
- Thursday 13 December: 7 p.m., Tarbert Carol Service, Saint Brendan's Church, followed by refreshments in Tarbert Community Centre.
- Sunday 16 December (Advent 3): No morning service in Askeaton; 11.30, Kilnaughtin, Holy Communion. 3 p.m., Carol Service in Saint Mary's Church, Askeaton, followed by refreshments in the Rectory.
- Friday 21 December: 12 noon: end-of-term School Play and Carol Service, Holy Trinity Church, Rathkeale.
- Sunday 23 December (Advent 4): 11 a.m., United Service (Holy Communion), Castletown.
- Christmas Eve, Monday 24 December: 8 p.m., Kilnaughtin (Christmas Communion); 10 p.m., Castletown (Christmas Communion).
- Christmas Day, Tuesday 25 December: 9.30 Askeaton (Christmas Communion); 11, Rathkeale (Christmas Communion).
- Sunday 30 December (Christmas 1): 11 a.m., United Parish Communion, Saint Brendan's Church, Kilnaughtin, Tarbert.
- Sunday 6 January 2019 (The Epiphany): 9.30 a.m., Saint Mary's Church, Askeaton, Holy Communion; 11.30, Saint Brendan's Church, Kilnaughtin (Tarbert), Holy Communion.
- Sunday 13 January (Epiphany 1): 9.30 a.m., Castletown Church, Kilcornan, Holy Communion; 11.30 a.m., Holy Trinity Church, Rathkeale.
- Sunday 20 January (Epiphany 2): 9.30 a.m., Askeaton, Morning Prayer; 11.30 a.m., Kilnaughtin, Holy Communion.
- Sunday 27 January (Epiphany 3): 9.30 a.m., Castletown, Morning Prayer; 11.30 a.m., Holy Communion, Rathkeale.

# Ardfert Diocese

## Tralee & Dingle Unions of Parishes

*Tralee, Ballymacelligott, Ballyseedy, Dingle, Kilgobbin and Killiney*

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#### CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR SERVICES.

- 9th December: School Play in St John's Ashe Street 10.45 am.
- 16th December: Ecumenical Carol Service in Kilgobbin at 3pm
- 16th December: Ecumenical Carol Service in St James at 7pm
- 16th December: Carol Service in St John's at 7pm.
- 24th December: Christmas Eve Family Eucharist in Dingle @ 7pm
- 24th December: Christmas Holy Comm. in Ballymacelligott @ 9pm
- 25th December: Christmas Family Eucharist in Kilgobbin @ 10am
- 25th December: Christmas Day St John's Ashe Street @ 10.45am
- 26th December: St Stephens Day Ballymacelligott @ 11am.
- 30th December: United Service in Ballyseedy at 11am
- 1st January: Holy Communion St John's Ashe Street 11am
- 6th January: Epiphany Service in Kilgobbin @ 5pm

All Saints and All Souls Service: On Sunday the 4th November we took the opportunity to remember with thankfulness all those who died in the past year. 'We believe that all the ties of friendship and affection which knit us as one throughout our lives do not end with death. Confident that God always remembers the good we have done and forgives our sins, let us at this All Saints give thanks to God for the memories that we cherish of those whom we have loved.

And in Kilgobbin Church on Sunday 4th November, we gave thanks for all the saints of the past and present who have been an inspiration to us. We also remembered loved ones who have died and lit candles in their memory.

An ICA service of Remembrance was held in Camp on the evening of All Saints day to remember past ICA members and loved ones. Candles were lit in their memory.



*ICA Service of Remembrance in Camp*

Remembrance Sunday in St. John's was an emotional time of memories of family members who had made the ultimate sacrifice in the cause of peace. The Boys' Brigade had made crosses with poppies attached which were available for people to place on graves of loved ones. The crosses were placed on a wreath with a lit lantern at the centre which was an appropriate focal point of the ceremony.

**Remembrance Sunday:** And in Kilgobbin and St James, Dingle services of Remembrance were much appreciated, when we commemorated the end of the First World War and remembered all who had given their lives for the freedom we are blessed to enjoy today. Links Ladies had an interesting evening when David Tough and Robert Hoffman spoke about their recent visit to Kenya with CMSI.

**WEDDING:** On 13th October, Tim Smith and Karen Lawlor were married in Kilgobbin Church. After a spell of beautiful weather, Saturday 13th October turned out wet all day! But it was a happy day with the church full of family and friends and Tim's uncle, the Revd. William Smith gave the address. Karen had a lucky escape when the vintage car she was travelling in, crashed on the way to the church. Despite being very shaken and a bump on her forehead, she looked beautiful. Our love and congratulations to them both.



*Tim Smith & Karen Lawlor after their marriage with Rev Phyllis Jones*

**TABLE QUIZ:** A successful table quiz was held in Ashes Bar on the evening of the 26th October and €300 was raised for the St James' Restoration Fund.

## Killarney and Aghadoe Union of Parishes

*Killarney, Aghadoe and Muckross*

**Rector:** Ven Simon J. Lumby, Archdeacon of Limerick  
The Rectory, Rookery Road, Ballycasheen, Killarney, Co. Kerry.  
Tel: 064 66 31832 Mob: 086-8703997  
Email: [killarney@ardfert.anglican.org](mailto:killarney@ardfert.anglican.org)

### CONCERT SEASON ENDS:

Every year the Killarney Golf Club Choir mark the end of St Mary's extensive concert season and 2018 is no different. On Tuesday December 11th they will be joined by O Happy Day Ladies Choir from Killorglin and St Oliver's Primary School Choir from Killarney at 8pm to bring down the curtain on this year's efforts; we'd ask all parishioners to attend if possible because the optics of seeing as many of us as possible in attendance sets the tone for next year in the eyes of our benefactors. A sincere word of thanks to Andrew Eadie and his band of little helpers for the trojan work they have done in organising, stewarding and cleaning up the church following all of the concerts throughout the year.

### BAPTISM:

The photograph shows archdeacon Simon with Diocesan Reader Adrian Hilliard officiating at the baptismal sermon welcoming Arlo Bailey into the church fold. Arlo's guests included several from all over Ireland and many from the United States who made the journey to St Mary's on October 4th.



*At the Font. Alyssa & Conrad Bailey and baby Arlo Theodore Bailey in the arms of his Godmother Ariana Cruz-Montgomery, with Adrian Hilliard and Ven Simon*



*Katie Giles*



*Maud with her parents Andrew and Yvonne Eadie*

### CONGRATULATIONS AND GRADUATIONS:

With the foregoing in mind, it seems such a short time from baptism, through childhood to a special marker which denotes a rite-of-passage into the adult state of one's life and for two of our parishioners this event took place in Mary Immaculate College in Limerick recently. Proud – and very relieved – parents Kathleen and James Giles and Yvonne and Andrew Eadie were thrilled to be in attendance when Katie Giles and Maud Eadie graduated with Hons degrees in Primary teaching on October 26th – Congratulations to Katie and Maud come from all at St Mary's and we hope you both have long and successful teaching careers.

### CHRISTMAS GREETINGS:

On behalf of the rector and all of the congregation of St Mary's can I offer sincere season's greetings to all Newslink readers, visitors to St Mary's and everyone throughout the diocese.

## Kilcolman Union of Parishes

*St Michael's, Iveragh Road, Killorglin*

*& St Carthage, Kiltallagh Road, Castlemaine.*

**Priest-in-Charge:** Rev Isabel F Keegan, FJ, MA  
Mob: 085 853 2431, Email: [revikireland@gmail.com](mailto:revikireland@gmail.com)  
**Assistant Priest:** Rev Ann-Marie L Stuart, FJ, MA  
Mob: 085 852 9414, Email: [revstuart29@gmail.com](mailto:revstuart29@gmail.com)  
Seaview House, Gurrane West, Killorglin, Co Kerry.  
Tel: 066 979 0359  
Web: [www.kilcolman.ardfert.anglican.org](http://www.kilcolman.ardfert.anglican.org)

*"In your light I learn how to love. In your beauty, how to make poems. You dance inside my chest where no-one sees you, but sometimes I do, and that sight becomes this art."*

### KILCOMAN REMEMBERED

This quotation from the poet and philosopher Rumi summed up the Union of Kilcolman's Remembrance Sunday services, as we considered a letter from a young soldier from WW1 of unknown nationality who while gazing at the stars, somehow managed to experience the nearness of his God even as he prepared to go over the top to fight the next morning. We remembered all of those 36,000 Irish men who gave their lives in an attempt to end all wars, let alone all those civilian men, women and children who were also the victims of war.

Sadly, as we all know only too well this was not to be so it was helpful that we also considered the Dean of St. Patrick's Cathedral's reminder that we must never, ever cease from praying for peace and working for reconciliation. This unusual service which also took into account the fact that we have Latvian, German, Irish and English parishioners, reflected upon the experience of all those who suffer as a result of war from different perspectives.

### KILTALLAGH SCHOOL REMEMBERS

Our little school at Kiltallagh also considered Remembrance, small as they are and used as they are to playing war games like 'Fortnight', it seemed important for them to discover that war is not a game and that we can best work for peace by how we choose to live alongside others in everyday life on one of our weekly assemblies in the school.

## A LIFE REMEMBERED

Bereavement was brought home to us recently with the sad death and funeral of Peter Newsholme. His family is half Irish and half English, when their daughter Linda married Gerry Divine and settled here many years ago, with Peter and his wife Molly joining them in Killorglin when they retired, and where they and their family have made many friends.

## NEW LIFE CELEBRATED

Everyday life on the Ring of Kerry is still rather busy. So we are delighted to have not one but two Baptisms in St. Cartach's Church, Kiltallagh. Little Layla Iris and her cousin Lilly Frances grandchildren of Mahmoud Hussain will come to Kiltallagh to be welcomed into our community with their parents at the beginning of December. And so we consider the Prince of Peace, as Advent wends its way towards us.

## CELEBRATIONS and INNOVATIONS

This year Kiltallagh are celebrating the end of term with a special Christmas Service, while in Killorglin we will have a service of nine lessons and Carols. However, this too was highlighted by Power Point as we read the traditional scripture readings, sing the usual carols but also listened to some up to date readings as we prepare to celebrate the birth of such a special child.



Churchwardens, Clergy and some of the parishioners of Kiltallagh at St Cartach's church

By the time we read this, we will all be in the throes of recovering from all our Christmas festivities, and preparing for a New Year. Each year we celebrate these events, so often they slide over our heads with some highs and some lows, some joys and some sorrows and sometimes some fallings out. This is our first Christmas in Kilcolman and we need to thank each and every parishioner for the warm welcome, the marvellous support and encouragement that we have received. Kilcolman begins a momentous year now, as we seek to find the money we require to rebuild our Rectory. We have some ideas ourselves but we know that other parishes have achieved this, so any thoughts, ideas and advice will be gratefully received. We ask the prayers and support of the diocese as we seek to prepare for a worthwhile future for the Union of Kilcolman, not just in terms of a building, but also as a network of relationships, a genuine forward looking Celtic Christian Community. In turn we wish you all a very happy, exciting and creative New Year. *'In Christ's light we learn to love, in his beauty we learn to make poems, he dances within our hearts where no one sees him, but sometimes we do, and that sight can inform our lives!'*

## Kenmare & Dromod Union of Parishes

Kenmare, Sneem, Waterville and Valentia  
Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Michael Cavanagh  
St Patrick's Rectory, Kenmare, Co. Kerry.  
Tel: 064 664 8566 Mob: 087 1606312  
Email: michael.cavanagh@eircom.net

### THIS MONTH'S LESSON – 'GOD ANSWERS PRAYERS HIS WAY'

For a couple of months, we have been preparing for the 'Kenmare Remembers – Together', the town commemoration of the Armistice centenary. The event was planned to be held in the Town Square on the afternoon of November 11th; the Kenmare Orchestra would be seated on an articulated trailer, the PA system and sound mixer next to it,

with the various readers and solo instrumentalists on the Courtroom steps. Over the weeks, the prayer warriors were committed to fervent knee work, asking for a clear, mild, dry afternoon.

The evening before the event was quite rainy – but we felt that was a good thing – 'let's get the wet out of the way, and it's bound to clear up in the morning' was the widely held opinion.

The day dawned. However the dawn didn't dawn. Torrential rain did. Not to mention thunder and lightning. At 10:30, the sound engineers were installed in a local café, being reluctant to deploy any electrical equipment for safety's sake. The articulated trailer had arrived, but was only half the size expected. Panic! Desperate phone calls to the Principal of PobalscoilInbhearScéine, more in hope than anything else, because we knew he was away for the weekend. Is there any chance, we asked, of using the School?

### What would have happened if dry:

Orchestra would not have been able to fit on the trailer. The PA would not, therefore, have been able to pick up the music. No-one other than the people on the front row would have been able to see the dramatic presentation by the Theatre kids. Older people in the audience would have had to stand for a good hour and a quarter, and would probably have left early. Families with children would have had to police them from running around in close proximity to the road. Even if dry, November ain't exactly the warmest month of the year.

### What did happen because of the storm:

School Principal wasn't away after all, so he gave permission for the event, including the PA and props to move into the School, and use the stage. There was plenty of seating. Instead of using a keyboard, the pianists had a Concert Grand piano on which to play. Everybody in the audience got a great view of the Theatre presentations, and the readers (in Irish, German, English, Friesian, Limburgish, Polish, French and Russian) were audible and visible. The souvenir programmes didn't get wet through. We raised over €625 towards Kerry Palliative Care and Pieta House, in memory of the young people of Kenmare who died during the last year. The event was incredibly moving, and did justice to the memory of all lost through conflict over the last 100 years. Days later, local people and visitors were still stopping us in the street to say how thrilled they were to be part of the commemoration.

Moral: When we pray, God gives us what we need – which is not necessarily what we want.

# Methodist News

## Adare & Ballingrane Methodist Circuit

Minister: Rev Ruth Watt

Methodist Manse, Rathkeale Road, Adare, Co. Limerick.

Tel: 061 396 236 Email: ruth.watt@irishmethodist.org

As someone who believes that God gave us His creation to care for I am very aware that part of our heating system in Adare Methodist church is heavy on energy consumption, and therefore not very environmentally friendly. That being said I believe that our heating system has added greatly to the atmosphere of our recent Prayer Day. The heaters in question are the wall heaters that emit a warm red glow along with the heat. Both the heat and light drew us into an atmosphere of quiet, prayerful contemplation as we sought to spend time with God in the midst of our busy lives. Many commented on the peaceful surroundings as they moved from prayer area to prayer area. God was very evident in that place and we were drawn into conversation with Him through the warmth, heat, peace, and different areas that had been set up to guide our thoughts. It is amazing how often and how well God uses even things that are not the best for this world. It is even more amazing to me how often and how well God uses people who are far from perfect to draw others into a loving relationship with Him!

We may not always be the most up-to-date, we may not have all the answers, we may not be many in number but God wants to use us in many ways, miraculous ways even, so that His love and His word will be shared throughout our communities.



*Rebecca plays for our services at the foot of the cross where we were encouraged to confess our sins and see them wiped clean.*



*Prayer station created to guide us in prayers for our families.*

#### SPECIAL SERVICES FOR DECEMBER:

- Saturday 15th: Service of Lessons & Carols in Adare @ 8:00pm
- Sunday 16th: United service in Ballingrane @ 11:00am
- Sunday 23rd: Messy Church Carol service for all the family in Ballingrane @ 11:00am
- Christmas Day service: in Adare @ 10:00am

All other services are at the usual times of 10:15 in Adare and 11:45 in Ballingrane

#### SERVICES FOR JANUARY:

- Sunday 6th: Covenant services with Holy Communion in both churches.
- All services for the month are at the usual times of 10:15 in Adare and 11:45 in Ballingrane

## **Christ Church Limerick, united Presbyterian & Methodist and Christ Church Shannon, joint Methodist, Presbyterian and Church of Ireland**

Minister: Rev. Vicki Lynch  
The Manse, 15 Aylesbury,  
Clonmacken, Limerick.  
Tel: 061 325325 Mobile: 086 8292073  
Email: vickilynch@eircom.net

#### REMEMBERING Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin (see photo page 15)

It was with great sadness we learned of the death of musician Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin and our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Helen, his sons and all his family and friends for whom it is such a huge loss and sorrow. Mícheál joined us on several occasions for the Irish World Music Cafe in CB1. Of course it's stating the obvious to say he was an amazing musician - but he was! However, for me the most noticeable aspect of his involvement was his immensely generous spirit. The Irish World Music Cafe was part planned - by the wonderful Helen Phelan - and part surprise - by whoever felt like participating or joining in. Mícheál would play solo for everyone, play with other fine musicians, but also play away, almost background music, while people prepared and then he

would accompany people of very varying musical accomplishment, just sort of musically coming alongside them and I'm very certain giving them much more confidence and joy in performing. He really was a brilliant accompanist, again so generous and careful and supportive with the nervous - a great encourager. He played with people from all over the world in that space - from west Africa to west Clare, usually not knowing what the session would bring. We were very honoured indeed to have such a giant of the musical world come to play with us in CB1. He was great fun and had a very beautiful spirit and we will miss him very much indeed.

#### THANK YOU

Christ Church would like to say a big thank you to Ms Josephine Masawi and the Zimbabwean Mothers' Union who led us in our Harvest Worship. We had a wonderful time of fellowship and a great lunch afterwards. It was interesting that the preparation for the service hadn't really gone according to plan, lots of things had got in the way and it was all very last minute, but everyone did their bit and it was really great! I'm sure there's a lesson that somewhere...

And a big thank you as well to Willie Gow of Glenstal Farm, our senior Presbyterian member. Willie gave his Harvest testimony along with some of our Zimbabwean sisters. It's lovely to be able to share, isn't it?



*Willie Gow gave a Harvest testimony*

## **Killarney, Kenmare & Millstreet Methodist Churches**

*[part of the Cork South & Kerry Circuit]*

Minister: Rev Karen Spence  
10 Flesk Grove, Killarney, Co Kerry  
Tel: 064 6631613  
Email: karen.spence@irishmethodist.org  
Website: www.irishmethodist.org/kerry

#### THE LIGHTHOUSE MILLSTREET

Sunday Service 6.30pm  
Bible Study Tuesday 7.30pm

#### KILLARNEY

Sunday Service 11am including Sunday School  
Soul Food Bible Study Friday 11am followed by Drop-in lunch 12pm  
Parent and Toddler (term time) Tuesday 10am  
Youth Club as arranged

The Gateway KENMARE  
Sunday Service 11am Including Sunday School (preceded by tea/ coffee)  
Prayer Meeting Wednesday 9.15am  
Bible study Wednesday 10am  
Drop in for coffee Wednesday 11am  
Contact Rev Karen Spence for further information.

Killarney Methodist held 'Illuminate' an event for all the family on 31st October. Around 35 people turned up for games, craft, acted out bible story, bible study and food. Some people commented that it was such a brilliant night and enjoyed the simplicity of it and of course great food!

The youth of Killarney church have enjoyed space to play badminton, table tennis, tell stories and eat pizza and we hope this will become a regular event.

The Castleisland Group has resumed and we are thankful that there is potential for groups to meet in other parts of Kerry.

Christians Together in Kenmare enjoyed topical studies led by Rev Michael Cavanagh and he will lead 2 more movie based studies in December and under Rev Karen's leadership we have worked through John's gospel.

The Lighthouse in Millstreet is planning a musical event in December. (details not yet finalised)

#### DATES FOR THE DIARY INCLUDE:

- Blue Christmas services in Millstreet on 11th December at 7.30pm and Killarney on 12th December at 7.30pm. These are quiet, reflective services for anyone who may be facing Christmas alone, suffering loss, or simply want a space to step out of the busyness of the time of year.
- Carol services are planned for Killarney on 19th December at 7.30pm and Kenmare on 23rd December at 11am
- Watchnight service in Killarney on 31st December 11.15pm preceded by fellowship and food from 9.30pm

## North Tipperary Methodist Circuit

Minister: Rev Shannon DeLaureal  
The Manse, The Mall, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary  
Tel: 0505 21670 Mobile: 085 1920 808  
Email: shannon.delaureal@irishmethodist.org

#### SUNDAY SERVICES:

10:00am – Borrisokane  
11:30am – Cloughjordan on 1st& 2nd Sunday's  
10:15am – Cloughjordan on 3rd, 4th, & 5th Sunday's  
11:45am – Roscrea  
7:00pm – Shinrone

The season of Advent is upon us! It's a time of preparation and expectation for Christ's splendid birth. Much of our preparation can be in the do-ing . . . planning and organizing special carol services, decorating our homes, offering hospitality to family and friends through meals and special outings, and the list can go on. But there is great worth preparing for this special day in our be-ing . . . where we take time to just be; to be with God, to be with family and friends, to be even with strangers.

Advent is also a time which is enriched by reflection and discussion on intangible but very real things such as our faith. Reading daily devotions centred on Advent or participating in an Advent Bible study can cultivate a deeper appreciation of life and faith.

The North Tipperary Circuit extends an invitation to you . . . to pause

from the busy-ness of life and to come to Shinrone Methodist on Sunday evenings for 7pm for a time of reflection and discussion. We will explore a variety of faith lessons that are gleaned from the classic movie, *Miracle on 34th Street*, in a study called "Someone to Believe In." May our time together help us all grow in gratitude, love and service to the Christ Child, who is "God with us," Immanuel.

May you and all those you hold dear, have a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Faithfully,  
~ Rev. Shannon

#### ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SPECIAL SERVICES AND EVENTS SCHEDULE:

Monday 17th Dec 8pm – Roscrea Ecumenical Carol Service  
Sunday 23rd Dec 11am – RTE One Sunday Service Broadcast: Led by N.

#### Tipperary Circuit

7:30pm – Cloughjordan Ecumenical Carol Service  
Monday 24th Dec 9:30pm – Shinrone Christmas Eve Holy Communion  
Tuesday 25th Dec – Christmas Morning Worship  
8:30am – Borrisokane  
9:30am – Cloughjordan  
10:30am – Roscrea  
Monday 31st December – Watch Night Service at 11:15pm in Shinrone

All are invited to Cloughjordan Methodist on Saturday 22nd December, 10am-2pm for a "Christmas Sharing" event. The Church will be decorated and you are welcome to sit in the stillness and beauty reflecting on the divine incarnation. Afterwards, come into the Hall for a nice hot cuppa and buns. Donations are warmly welcomed and are in aid of the Capuchin Day Centre for the homeless in Dublin.

Preachers' Meeting – Tuesday, 4th December at 8pm in Shinrone  
MWI Cloughjordan/Borrisokane meeting – Tuesday 18th December at 8pm  
MWI potluck evening meal at the Kingston's, Tuesday 22nd January 2019.

Annual Circuit Fundraising dinner and social will take place in the Cosy Kitchen Roscrea on Friday 18th January. Tickets are €25/adult and €15/child.

Advent Ecumenical Bible Study – "Someone to Believe In" will take place in Shinrone Methodist on Sundays 25th Nov. and 2nd, 9th & 16th Dec. at 7.00p.m. This is an Advent Course based on the movie "Miracle on 34th Street." All are welcome!

Methodist Modern Art Collection – at the Royal Hibernian Academy Ely Place, Dublin 2, November 16th – December 21st 2018. This exhibition provides a unique opportunity to experience something of the power of art to proclaim the message of salvation. It should be regarded as a major resource for proclamation, mission and evangelism.

Special associated programmes:

Wednesday 5th December – Fr. Mark Patrick Hedermann, OSB, will consider the Advent and Christmas themes in the Collection at 6pm at RHA.

For more information, please see website: <http://methodistartdublin.ie>

BOYS' BRIGADE – We will meet this month in Roscrea Church Hall on Friday 14th December, and 11th& 25th January, 7-8pm. If you're interested in joining or have queries, please contact our captain Alison Hayes, at 086 6030225, for more information.

Faithfully,  
~ Rev. Shannon

# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Luke chapter 2 verses 1-7

The Roman Empire charged the countries it had invaded taxes, based on the number of people and what they earned.

Emperor Augustus gave orders that all people in the Empire were to be registered so they could be taxed.



This census was before Quirinius became Governor of Syria\* (\*whose own census started riots - Acts 5:37)



When the order came, Mary and Joseph were living in Nazareth.

But Joseph was descended from King David, who had been born in Bethlehem...



so Joseph took Mary to Bethlehem to stay with his family.

Come and meet everyone!



A normal home in Bethlehem.



While they were staying there, Mary's baby was born.



There was no space in the guest room to put a new baby!

So they made a snug bed for Jesus in one of the mangers.



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### Prompt Payment Draw

All families who pay before a specified date each semester are entered into a draw for a refund of their net fees for that semester. Please contact our School Bursar for specific information on all our grants, scholarships and bursaries. All enquiries are dealt with in the strictest of confidence - [bursar@villiers-school.com](mailto:bursar@villiers-school.com)

**Weekend bus service - Killaloe, Ballina, Nenagh, Borrisokane, Birr, Roscrea.**



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